Senior Community Adviser.

wn, Community Adviser.

Senior Assistant ation Adviser.

ing Officer.

IN MAY of this year the long-awaited re-organisation of local government took place in Scotland.

It was a move that resulted in a number of significant changes in the way different public services operate.

Among the many groups affected was the Community Education Service in Glasgow which was previously under the direct supervision of the Corporation in the city.

Today it is the responsibility of the new Strathclyde Regional Council Department of Education Glasgow Division.

Few changes have resulted to date from regionalisation as far as Community Education Service is concerned.

There have already been several staff changes and there is obviously great opportunity for widening the scope of the Service because of the tremendous resources within the Strathclyde Region.

To avoid any confusion regarding the present senior staff structure in the Community Education Service in Glasgow the *Glaswegian* publishes the following list:

Step by step guide to who does what...

Mr. A. G. LOGGIE, Senior Community Education Adviser; responsible to the Directorate for Policy, for planning (policy and building), co-ordinating all work of the department, preparation of documents for committee, responsible for grants to voluntary youth organisations (except educational excursions and training) and acting as a link with Glasgow Standing Conference of Voluntary Youth Organisations.

Mr. DOUGLAS BROWN, Community Education Adviser; responsible for promotion of adult education and linking with FE Colleges, Extra Mural Department, WEA, Social Work Department, Prisons, ETV, Immigrants, Leisure and Recreation Department, Adult Voluntary Groups, development of a resource centre and acting for senior adviser in his absence.

Mr. JOHN JOHNSTON, Senior Assistant Community Education Adviser; responsible for co-ordinating and promoting part-time provision—FE Centres, Parents Clubs, Youth Clubs, Junior Clubs, Play Centres, Misc. Groups. Co-ordinating and developing all sport. Assisting in Planning and Part-time staffing. Co-ordinating Summer Games Programme.

Mr. WALTER KERR, Assistant Community Education Adviser; responsible for co-ordinating and promoting full-time provision—community centres, youth centres, play parks, crafts and hobbies centres, Palace of Art, Homecraft Centre, neighbourhood centres, co-ordinating full-time staffing and assisting in planning.

Mr. ALAN SHERRY, Assistant Community Education Adviser; responsible for international exchanges and staffing, for educational excursion grants to voluntary youth organisations, publicity e.g. *Glaswegian* Youth Handbook and monthly events and highlights.

Mr. SAMUEL SWINTON, Assistant Community Education Adviser responsible for co-ordinating and promoting D. of E. Scheme, all outdoor services, promotion of the arts, festivals and concerts also maintaining link with Blairvadach.

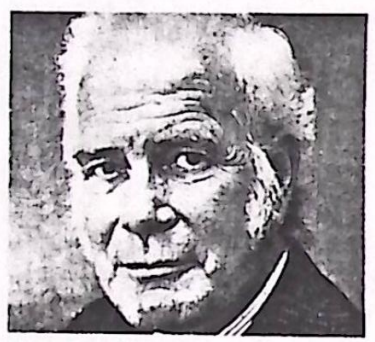
Mr. MALCOLM G. HILL, Senior Administrative Officer; responsible for co-ordinating work of the administration. Specific functions include capital grants, financial estimates, [illegible] provision, adult education and statistics.

VACANCY Training Officer; responsible for full-time and part-time staff training. Co-ordinating Trainee programme. Responsible for Training Grants to Voluntary Organisations

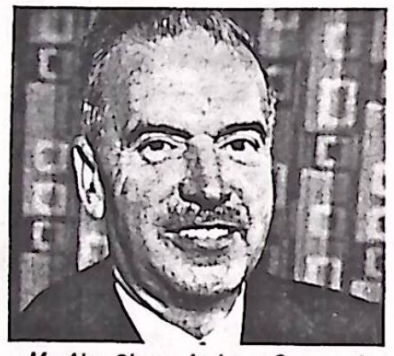
The Area organisers are the first link in the chain between the full-time and part-time field staff and the Central Administration.

Area organisers in the Community Education Service include —

Mr. George Absolom, Mr. Joseph Burke, Mr. William Donald, Miss Fiona Fisher, Mr. David Fotheringham, Miss Susan Knights, Miss Anne Potter, Mr. James Shields and Mrs Lorna Suissa.



Mr. Walter Kerr, Assistant Community Education Adviser.



Mr. Alan Sherry, Assistant Community Education Adviser.

Mr. Samuel Swinton, Assistant Community Education Adviser.

Mr. Malcolm Hill, Senior Administrative Officer.

Are

CANTEEN CLOSURE..IT'S

Community Centre members will be well aware that last month the canteen hatch stayed shut for one session out of three each day. No tea, no coffee, no nothing, except through the occasional kindness of the Centre staff.

At first, a notice went up explaining that the closure was caused by the public expenditure cuts and would last indefinitely. Then another notice went up asking for volunteers prepared to keep the canteen open.

Finally a petition was organised by Mrs. Cathy Houston, which collected 1,000 signatures. This has been sent to the Director of Education, with no result so far. Members of the Centre Advisory Committee, and others, have also begun to serve in the canteen as volunteers.

Certain questions arise out of this situation.

Who Decides?

Who decided on the closure?

The closure took place because one of the two canteen assistants left and the Regional Education Authority refused to replace her. Mr. Corsar, Divisional Education Officer, when interviewed by CASTLEMILK TODAY, justified this by saying that it had just become regional policy that savings should be made by not filling vacancies when canteen staff left. Mr. Corsar disclaimed responsibility for what had happened, saying that this lay with the Regional Council.

Mr. Corsar was asked whether the people of Castlemilk had any say in how the cuts were applied locally -- for example, was it possible for the community to decide that it needed canteen staff more than administrative staff? Mr. Corsar replied that local people could not make such choices, though ideally they should be allowed to. He agreed that there were many illogicalities in the present set up, which he described as very inflexible, and repeated that he was not responsible for the decisions made. Mr. Corsar was asked whether he personally believed that people should have more say in decisions made about their own areas. Mr. Corsar replied that though local consultation was a good idea, often there simply was not enough time to consult people, though personally he would in future be pleading for more of it.

Mr. Corsair was asked if there was any way in which people could appeal against the decision taken by the Education Department as regards the Centre canteen. Mr. Corsar replied that there was no way of appealing against the policy decision of the Regional Council, but that he would be reporting back to his immediate superior and would draw his attention to the strong feeling expressed by the community.

It would seem that once again decisions concerning the lives of local people are being taken by people most uninformed of the situation.

Excuses

Is the Education Authority decision saving money?

There are an estimeated 40,000 people living in Castlemilk, a population that represents, say,the town of Perth, yet within Castlemilk there is not a single public house and only one commercially run cafe, in the swimming baths. You would have thought that any commercial interest would jump at the chance of opening a canteen in the heart of the scheme, right next to the main shopping centre -- especially if, as with the Centre canteen, they had no overheads like rent, electricity and heating. Yet the Regional Education Authority thinks that by closing the canteen it can save a wage! Is it possible that the Centre canteen has actually been losing money? Obviously the regional authorities must think so if they are prepared to run down the canteen in order to save money.

In fact the Centre balance sheet for the last financial year showed that the canteen took in £4,000. Wages for the staff came to £3,800. £200 or so went on running expenses. So in the Warden's assessment, the Centre canteen more or less broke even. In other words, money is not being saved by this cut, because the wage is being covered by the revenue from the pockets of Centre members.

But if the canteen is not in fact losing money, why is it not making a lot more, as it should? Frank Craig, secretary of the trade union, puts it this way:

> "The canteen does not lose money on trading. Every purchase shows a considerable profit, which I can prove. The canteen on the other hand loses income due to improper economic practices, verging on lunacy, which again I can if required prove. The stated practices are due to management policy, and in no way are the assistants responsible for this."

Would you believe it if we told you that our Centre canteen has no way of knowing how much money it actually takes in, as it does not even possess a cash register?

All part of the service

for the benifit of the community

are Centre members acting in their own interests if they volunteer to help in the canteen?

At the moment volunteers are sacrificing time and effort to keep the canteen open. In doing so,they are making money for the Education Department who take in all the proceeds, and not receiving any service in return. This situation is unacceptable, and Mr. Myers states that if the use of the volunteers continues he will try to arrange for the money taken in to be at the disposal of the Centre.

This could turn the time and effort of the volunteers into an asset to the community, provided that all members had a say in how profits were used.

anxiety

What actions can the Trade Unions take without disregarding the needs of the community?

It is clear that both the Union and the local community agree that the vacancy for the job of canteen assistant should be filled. However, when the Union heard that voluntary workers were being used to operate the canteen, they instructed the cleaners not to clean it, and when they discovered that Community Centre staff were also involved in serving at the canteen, they then refused to clean the staff office.

For obvious reasons, the Trade Union is against the use of volunteers to run the canteen. Such a development directly threatens their jobs. Mr. Craig made it clear that there was simply no question of the Unions accepting the use of voluntary workers to run the canteen. However, if voluntary workers are not allowed by the Trade Union and if the Education Department refuse to fill the post of canteen assistant, then the canteen will close and the people who will suffer are the pensioners, who are the ones most in need of a warm, welcoming place in which to sit and meet their friends.

Of course some people using the canteen support the Union's actions and refuse to use the canteen when operated by voluntary workers. Others, however, feel that the Union is totally disregarding the needs of the local community, who wish above all things that the canteen remain open.

worth fighting for

CASTLEMILK TODAY supports the idea that if a service is definitely to be discontinued, the community should be allowed to run it themselves if they so desire. But before we accept volunteers at all, we must be satisfied that there is no way in which the paid job can continue. So we must insist that the Education Department press our case.

Now you know

We thought it might interest our readers if we gave them some idea of how difficult it was to get the basic information for this article. Many people in Castlemilk will have had similar frustrating experiences when dealing with other official bodies.

To begin with it was necessary to make a series of telephone calls - most of them a waste of time and money. Although we had been informed that a Strathclyde Regional department called "Manpower Services" had issued the instruction not to fill the canteen vacancy, when we contacted them they claimed to know nothing about it.

From that moment on we were on the 'Merry.go.Round', with one department passing the buck, and us, on to another. Apart from the frustration of being bumped around, the attitude of the officials and their secretaries seemed to be "This is none of your business - leave it to us". Some of the questions they asked us showed that they were capable of more than a touch of Monty Python humour. Having given our name to each department we were further asked -

"Yes, but who are you?"
or "Who do you think you are?" and even
"Who else are you?".

Sometimes we were asked -
"Are you the Warden of the Community Centre?" or "Are you the Chairman of the Community Centre Advisory Committee?", and the one that took the biscuit - not from the canteen, needless to say - was "Are you applying for the canteen vacancy?".

This is just another example of how the Authorities attempt to wear down the determination of the public who have the nerve to enquire how officials reach decisions which are vital to local people.

THE KELLY KOPPERS
or the schoolgirl detectives

Further adventures of Mary M. Kelly, who recently had a very exciting dream in which she had been captured by a weird assembly of vegetable men, but all had ended happily.

It was a few weeks after that dream when Mary and her friend, Annie Milne, after finishing school decided to go to the woods off Ardencraig Road and have a look at the spot featured in the dream.

As they pushed their way through a clump of bushes Mary pointed to a huge tree near the edge of the wood: 'It was about there, I think," said Mary, but Annie wasn't listening; she had stopped, and pointing through the trees and across the fields said excitedly; "Look, do you see those two men....I watched them drive into the field and park their car in a deep hollow out of sight of the road—see, one has a spade and the other is carrying a case or something."

The girls watched the distant figures, and Annie with her usual logical mind suggested that the men might only be burying "a died dug", but Mary thought it advisable to hide behind the big tree and observe things for a while.

On leaving the car the men had walked to the side of a small stream, stopped, and gazed around them. Mary was glad that she and Annie had hidden themselves. The man with the spade pointed to a spot and then he carefully cut out some sods, then proceeded to dig. Soon he stopped and his companion laid his case in the hole, covered it with earth, then gently put back the sods, throwing the soil left over into the stream thus leaving the spot as if it had never been disturbed. They quickly moved to the car, drove into Cathkin Braes Road and off towards Carmunnock.

"Whew, that wis nae dug they buried", exclaimed Annie, and Mary agreed. "Right—it's the polis station at the double—let's go, Annie".

At the police station they were treated to a little banter, but soon the desk sergeant saw they were in earnest, and after consultation with two constables said: "Listen, girls, take the policemen to the spot" then he turned to the men, "Keep out of sight of the road in case we scare the suspects off...and make sure the girls leave and go home—remember that, girls".

Mary and Annie nodded: "We understand, sir, we will do as you say".

The sergeant then turned to the constables: "I'll send a detail to Cathkin Braes Road, thus observing the spot from both sides".

Well, the outcome was that the men did return, and as soon as they had retrieved the case the police pounced. In it was the £3,000 stolen in a hold-up in a Rutherglen bank.

In the afternoon of the next day the Headmaster sent for Annie and Mary. They entered his study a trifle timorously..."And now Mr. Graham, meet our schoolgirl detectives". He addressed a gentleman who had risen to his feet and approached the girls with outstretched hand: "Mary and Annie, I am pleased to meet such smart and intelligent girls...you are a credit to the school. I have now the honour of presenting this small token of gratitude from the bank," and he handed each of the girls an envelope.

The Headmaster was beaming. "Now, girls, you can have the rest of the afternoon off—I'll explain to the teacher."

Mary and Annie left the study treading on air, but once outside they opened their envelopes and saw a cheque for £50. "Magic!" they both exclaimed.

Mary's mother was delighted, but when her father came home from work and saw the reward he whistled with joy and said: "Mary, how would you like to be a partner in a business deal? With your £50 and my £250 we can buy that caravan we had at Monifeith last year—I got the chance of it this week."

"Shake, Pop—Youre on", said Mary, and her Dad gave her a hug and a kiss, while Mrs. Kelly looked on a little proudly and slightly amused.

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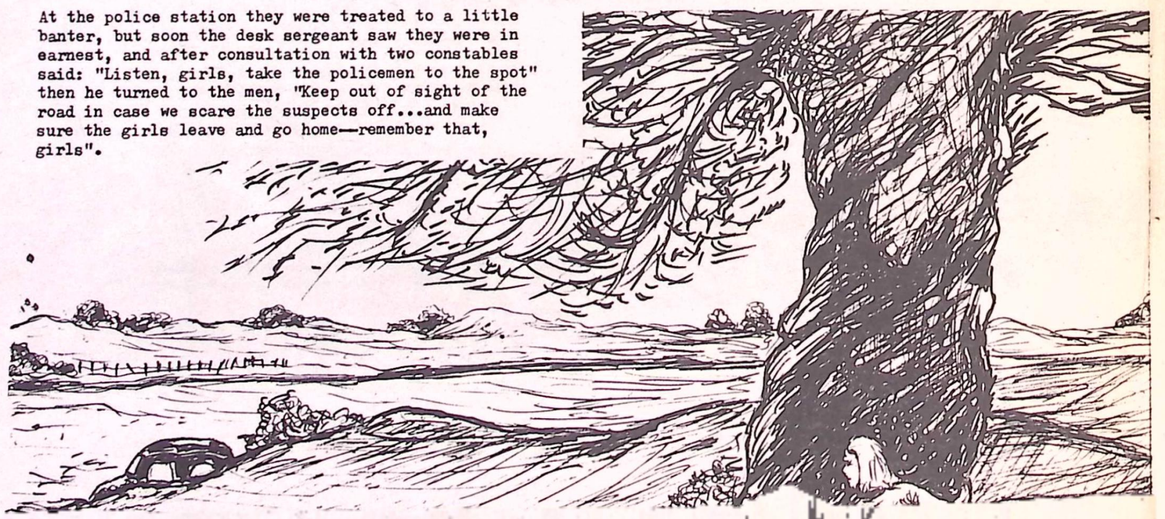

FOLLOW UP
SOCIAL WORK AREA OFFICE

Exactly a year ago Castlemilk Today published an article based on an interview with Mr. Baxter, the District Manager of Social Work for the South East Area, and two members of his staff.

From information received, it was stated that an Area Office would be set up in Castlemilk, above the Nursery School in Dougrie Road, to provide services to the people in the Scheme and surrounding districts. It was hoped that the new office would be ready for use in the second half of 1976.

It was felt that as we had reached 1977, still minus this much needed, and long overdue local service, it was time the matter was investigated. An interview was arranged at the Osborne Street office with Mr. Baxter, Mr. Westwater the area Manager, and Mr. Legg of Community Development. The following facts emerged.

Owing to the financial cuts, a freeze was put on all new expenditure until Strathclyde Regional Council had reviewed future plans - hence the delay in proceedings.

Fortunately, the proposed new area office has been regarded as essential, and the sum of £75,000 has been allocated for this purpose. Work has already begun to renovate the premises in Dourgrie Road, and the office is expected to open August/September. Mr. Baxter deplores the fact that, in particular, old people and mothers with young children should have the trouble of travelling by bus to Osborne Street to await attention. He states it is important that people should be able to discuss their problems locally, in decent and dignified surroundings. He also hopes that all of us will co-operate with the department, by continuing to be good neighbours, and lending a helping hand when required, especially to the old and infirm. Mr. Baxter feels that the community spirit is already very evident in our area and says "We cannot work without your support". The new office will also eliminate "The misuse of qualified time" spent in travelling from a city based office, and allow more active work to be done.

The Family Service Unit will be closely linked with the Social Work Department.

Our Community Development Team is the largest in the city. We asked if the cutbacks would mean a reduction in the staff of 20-25 already planned, but were assured that this would be unaltered.

Mr. Westwater and Mr. Legg stressed that information on Services available will be brought to the notice of the people. A matter in which Castlemilk Today will continue to play its part.

We are sure that the people of Castlemilk will be only too glad to co-operate with a Social Work Dept. set up locally, and will hope that the £75,000 will be spent to their best advantage.

PANCAKE RECIPE

Revival Theatre Company

Revival Theatre Company is a group of young teenagers who organise concerts for people of all ages.

We have given five concerts in four months - one for the handicapped, one for OAP, two for the Women's Guild and one big concert in the Community Centre. The money collected from this concert was to be given to one of the Playgroups in the area and we put their names in a hat and asked Mr. John Myers, the Warden of the Community Centre, to draw a name from it. The one picked out was the Jeely Piece Club.

We are also starting on a Pantomime for next Christmas which we hope will be a success. If you can send us a few ideas or plays, please write to -

Frank Chambers,
Assistant Organiser,
Revival Theatre Company,
Castlemilk Community Centre.

P.S. Revival are having a Jumble Sale and Auction on Saturday 5th March from 10.30 - 12.30 and 2 - 4 pm, also a Dance on 28th March from 7.30 - 10.15 pm Price 20p Tea and biscuits will be served. Both these events will take place in the Community Centre.

THANK YOU

The Jeely Piece Club would like to thank the Revival Theatre Company for their kind donation. This was very much appreciated by us all. The money was raised by teenagers from Castlemilk performing a concert in the Community Centre. The Concert attracted a large crowd, and they all enjoyed it immensely.

OAP Club : Volunteers Wanted

VOLUNTEERS ARE WANTED FOR MEALS ON WHEELS

This is a very necessary and worthwhile service. Come and see Mrs. Stevenson at the Community Centre on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 12 and 2, or 'phone 637 9700. If more suitable you could 'phone the Community Centre.

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A LOVELY TIME ENJOYED BY ALL

On December 22nd, we had a very successful Christmas Dinner. We heartily thank Castlemilk East Church Mothers' Group and everyone concerned for the happy hours we all spent together.

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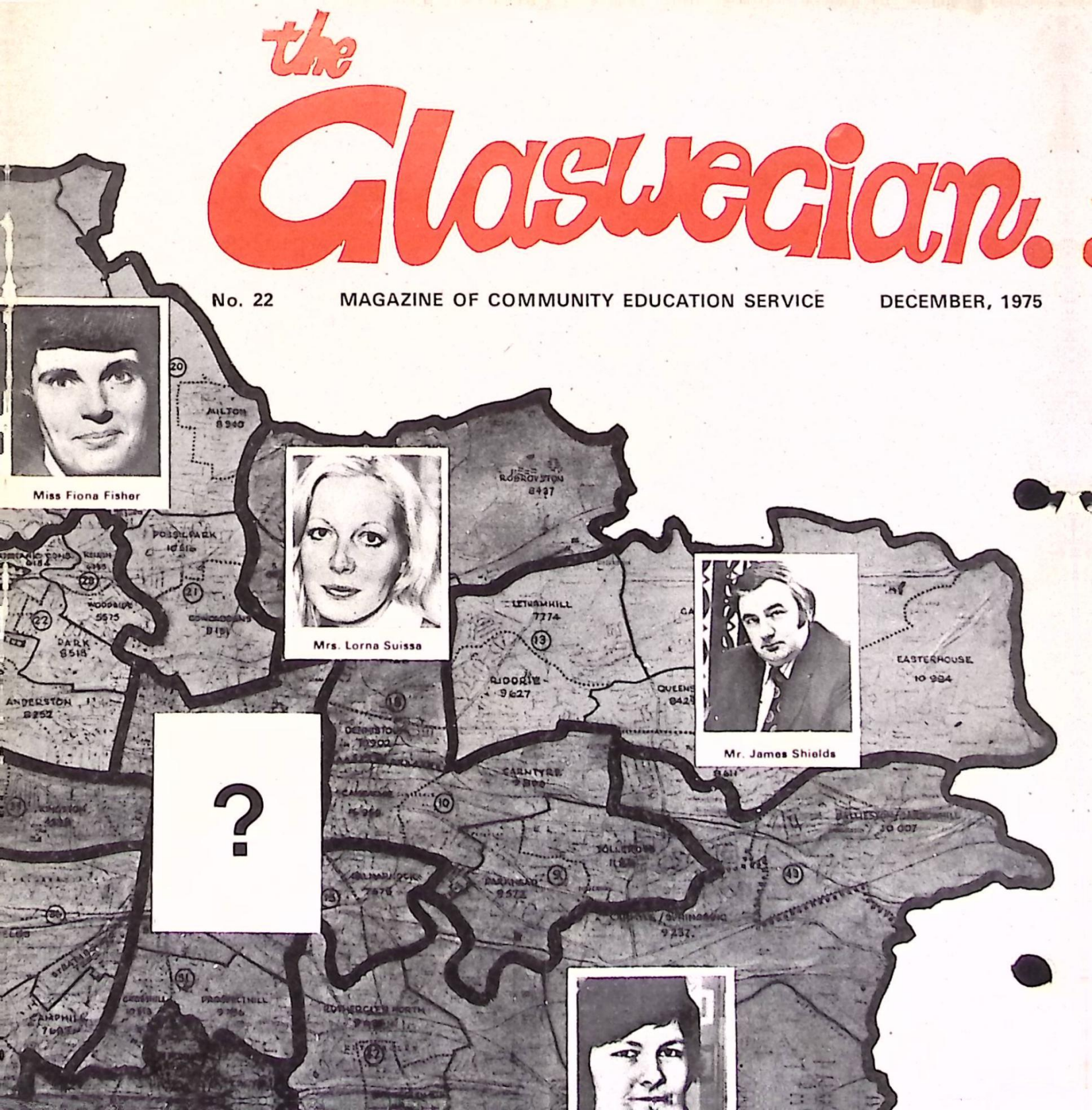
the Glaswegian.

No. 22 MAGAZINE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE DECEMBER, 1975



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CITY Volunteer Bureau set

Vital role of the Area Organisers

A DEDICATED group of people who play a vital role in the day-to-day running of the Community Education Service in Glasgow.

This in a nutshell describes the city's nine area organisers whose responsibilities are as diverse as the Service itself.

Enthusiasm and the willingness to work long hours are just two of the requirements demanded of the job.

Which is hardly surprising considering the various functions each organiser has to carry out.

In addition to servicing statutory adult and youth provision in an area with relation to staff, an organiser has to co-ordinate supplies of equipment and ensure satisfactory use is made of available accommodation.

An organiser may also be called on to act in an advisory capacity to help voluntary organisations and help develop new clubs/centres for youth and adults when new buildings become available, either school buildings or *ad hoc* youth and community centres.

This is only part of the duties of an organiser who will also be required to assess the needs of the various communities in an area and recommend where neighbourhood development officers and temporary buildings may help towards improving facilities.

An organiser must also compile and have available a booklet listing the voluntary and statutory provisions showing where help and assistance may be obtained for community projects.

Then there is the provision of estimates for part-time staff needs in the area, publicity material and organising and stimulating community and area events.

Another aspect of the job is the identification of training needs along the following lines:

a Examine entrants and assess their potential and where they can be best used.

b Consult with full and part-time staff to identify potential leaders in the club/centre situation.

c Recommend leaders for training for promoted posts—adult and youth.

d Work closely with the training officer in all aspects of training.

An organiser is also responsible for supervising and organising a summer games programme in the area and ensure clubs and centres participate wholeheartedly in city events, sports leagues and championships.

On top of all this an organiser must encourage groups and centres to become involved in summer camps and international exchange schemes and encourage and develop Duke of Edinburgh award groups in clubs and centres.

Two major developments which Area Organisers have been involved in recently have been stimulating interest and assisting in the development of Community Council Steering Committees and setting up facilities and resources in connection with the present Adult Literacy Campaign.

These are only some of the functions an area organiser is called to perform in the course of a year. There are many others which make the job one of the most challenging in the Community Education Service.

the Glaswegian.

No. 23 MAGAZINE OF COMMUNITY EDUCATION SERVICE WINTER, 1976

CHALLENGE THAT POSES NEW PROBLEMS FOR EVERYONE

by A. G. LOGGIE

IN THE past two issues of the *Glaswegian* we have tried to state clearly the areas of responsibility of the organising staff in the Community Education Service.

The 17 who appeared on the centre pages of the October magazine represent a small army of full-time and part-time members of staff serving all aspects of Community Education.

At a recent conference on the Alexander Report (Adult Education—The Challenge of Change), Mr. Edward Miller, Director of Education, Strathclyde, outlined the complex nature of community education and pointed out that it meant different things to different people.

In my opinion no other service is as versatile, open to change or prepared to pick up the gauntlet to a challenge as the Community Education Service. And the challenge is there.

TIMES OF DRASTIC CHANGE

We are living in times of drastic change. Times when a great number of people have felt, for the first time, the pain of being made redundant and not able to find work.

Many thousands of young people have still to feel the satisfaction of being handed their first pay packet.

Escalating food prices and heating costs have meant people, in the lower income group, eat less and stay cold longer.

A holiday for many people is nothing more than a dream.

One could go on and on but it would make depressing reading.

For those of us who have not felt the effects of poverty and whose families do not go without, we should be grateful and be prepared to look closely at what we have got and what we give in return.

The expenditure of Region and District authorities all over Scotland is being questioned, simply because money is not readily available for what were once considered basic provisions, never mind frills.

We must play our part in ensuring that our Service is not seen as a frill but a basic essential in community life.

And when I say 'we' I mean every full-time and part-time member of staff.

I would ask everyone to answer truthfully the following questions:

- What are my motives for doing this work?
- What are my aims and objectives?
- How successful am I in reaching my aims and objectives?
- Do I care?

The operative word is care and what we should be aiming for is helping towards a more enlightened and caring society.

A society where the less able can find help and support and the more able share their strength and talents which would lead to a more balanced community.

Youth work should mean more than table tennis and football and adult education more than dressmaking and cookery classes.

The Community Education Service has an army which could help to re-shape Glasgow's future.

We proved in our work in promoting Community Councils and when we were handed the role of servicing the Adult Literacy Campaign that we are broad based and versatile as a Service.

Other challenges are on the way.

THINK ABOUT RESOURCES

Finally, I would ask you, whether you are involved full-time or part-time, in youth work or adult education to think about the resources you have available—buildings, equipment and staff.

- The use that is made of them.
- Whether better use could be made of them.
- Whether you could share them with some other group.
- Whether you need them at all.

Think, think, think all the time and ensure that money is being spent wisely, equipment being ordered is required and you, as a resource, are using your time efficiently to the benefit of the community you serve.

The more people are given the chance to provide for themselves the more pride and care they will take in it.

Whenever possible give them that chance.

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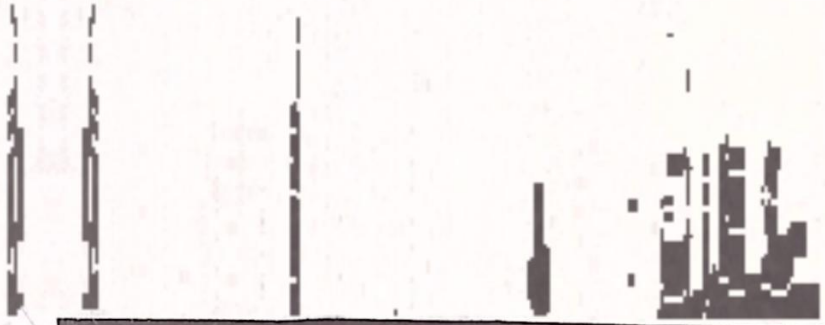
WHY LONDON: Many young people head for the bright lights of London without any real objective in sight. The two young people on the front cover were travelling south to attend the National Youth Assembly conference at Brighton where they represented Scotland. They are Linda Robertson (17), Cadder Youth Centre, & Findlay McNaughton, Drumchapel Youth Centre. The Youth Assembly is an independent organisation which offers young people throughout Britain an opportunity to exchange views and to discuss topics of mutual interest.



Community Centre Who Decides?

The Annual General Meeting of Castlemilk Community Centre's Advisory Committee took place on Monday, 4th October. The chairman was Mr. C. Baillie. Mr. J. Meyer, the Warden, was in attendance. About 50 Centre members had turned up for the meeting. Everyone present was requested to state their name and club in a book.

Copies of a report giving a general outline of the Centre's programme and expenditure for the year were distributed.

After the usual formalities, Mr. J. Meyer, the Warden, gave a run down of the financial aspects of the Centre. (pages 8 & 9 of the report, available from the Secretary's Office). Many members expressed surprise at the profit made by the tea lounge, and felt this should be reflected in the form of lower prices, but Mr. Meyer explained that the money helped to offset, in a sense, other expenses such as wages, heating etc. However this explanation did not find sympathy with a great deal of people at the meeting.

Mr. Meyer asked that people should consider the setting up of a Management Committee in place of the Advisory Committee. He was asked to explain the difference, which he did briefly, adding that at the moment, the responsibilities of a Management Committee had not yet been clearly worked out.

An objection was made that the agenda for the A.G.M. had never been displayed on the Community Centre notice board, as required by the constitution. Mr. Meyer agreed that this had been overlooked. There were members who suggested that the financial reports should be available for some time before the A.G.M. in order that members could thereby study them, and raise any points connected with the finances.

Mr. Meyer summed up his report by saying that the year had gone well.

The chairman then asked if there were any further nominations for office bearers and auditors, for the Advisory Committee, as the elections would now take place. A Centre member pointed out that this could not be proceeded with, as this would contravene the constitution which states that the electing of office bearers should take place at the May meeting of the Advisory Committee. After some confusion it was agreed that this was correct. The chairman however did not feel it necessary to abide by the constitution on this point, and stated that he personally, was prepared to proceed with the elections now.

A Centre member explained that if the elections were proceeded with it would mean that those names put forward by the previous Advisory Committee, (see Minutes for June) would stand unopposed and the A.G.M. would simply act as a rubber stamp for this decision. It was therefore obvious that it was more democratic to abide by the constitution and let the new Advisory Committee rather than the old elect its office bearers.

Other people, including the chairman, claimed that, by electing the office bearers at the A.G.M., they were simply following the pattern of the last 8 years, and that if this was unconstitutional, as appeared to be the case, then the Castlemilk Community Association was an excellent, unconstitutional organisation.

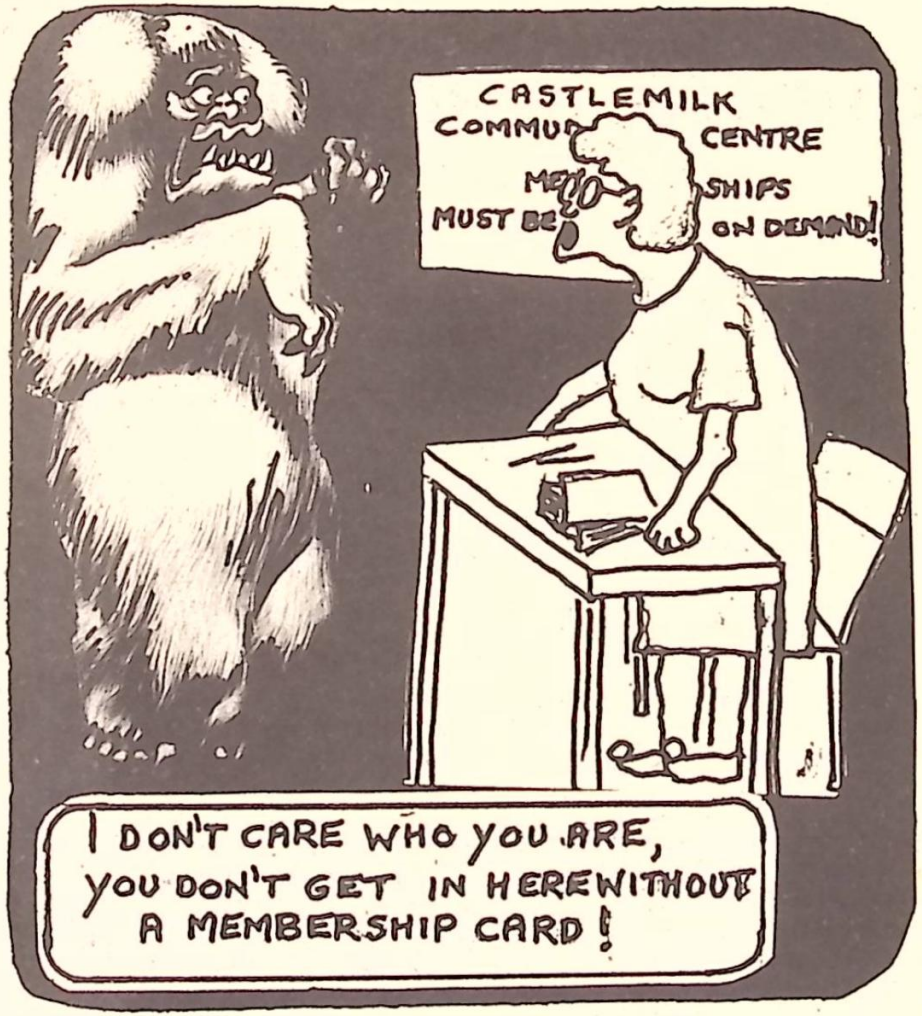
As the debate dragged on people, including the chairman, began to state openly that they did not understand why newcomers, who had never been to an Advisory Committee, should have the right to question the well established practices of the organisation.

Someone then suggested that, as the issue had by now become utterly confused and people were beginning to leave in disgust, the elctions should be held over to a new meeting. Others however stated that this would be a pity as there had never been such a large turnout at an A.G.M. of the Community Association.

At this point Mr. Absolom, (Area Organiser, Community Education Services) was called in, and it was with some relief that the chair was handed over to him. Mr. Absolom, although recognising the procedure was not constitutional, proceeded with the election of office bearers, despite numerous protests.

Whereupon the meeting was hurriedly closed.

"CASTLEMILK TODAY" No 22. OCT. 1976



COMMUNITY CENTRE KANGAROO COURT ?

It has recently come to the attention of Castlemilk Today that several members of the community centre have had their membership cards taken away, thus disalowing them the use of the centre premesis. As the procedure for excluding such people seemed highly criticable. (One member was banned by the advisory committee without been given the chance to speak in his defence thus raising the spectre of a Kangaroo court) two members of the paper group were asked to find out from the Warden of the centre the official regulations govening disciplinary measures of this nature.

Mr Myers was somewhat uncertain regarding the position and asked the deligates to wait while he asked the advice of another Community Centre Warden, who happened to be visiting him, and was in his office. After checking with the other Warden, Mr Myers was able to tell the deligates that there was no documentation governing disciplinery action. However he did say that the general practise seemed to be, that the Warden alone was responsible for these matters. He added that when the Warden took such action, the person had the right of appeal to the Advisory Committee.

Castlemilk Today would like to point out that it is one thing for the Warden to be responsible for matters of discipline, with the possibility of an appeal to the advisory committee in a disputed case, and quite another for the advisory committee to expel a member unheard whatever the circumstances. Moreover Castlemilk Today demands that a proper procedure be laid down for dealing with such matters so that every community centre member can be fully aware of his rights when he purchases his membership card.

C/Tommy №23 Nov. 1976

COMMUNITY CAPERS

Recent Community Centre advisory meetings (and the A.G.M.) have been enlivened by the presence of a group of enquiring minds who have had the temerity to suggest that, at such gatherings, the constitution of the community association ought to be adhered to. While this has proved inconvenient for those who prefer to run things their own way, untrammeled by such restrictions as are imposed by the constitution, some evidence is coming in that the good people of Castlemilk will not much longer tolerate this situation.

At a recent interview, community centre warden John Meyers admitted that no comprehensive list of organisations entitled to elect representatives to the advisory committee existed. While Mr Myers did his best to provide Castlemilk Today with such a list he did admit that several of the organisations named might not be affiliated to the Community Centre and would therefore have no voting rights at advisory meetings.

The absence of such a list makes the job of chairman at advisory meetings impossible for while any community centre member is entitled to attend such meetings, only those representing Community Centre groups or affiliated organisations have a vote.

It would appear that this principle has not been too rigidly adhered to in the past, but that is the way with uncomfortable constitutional facts, and we may well ask to whose benefit the present systenm operates.

great improvement in the amenities offered to members.

KARATE CHOPPED.....?

Questions raised by minutes secretary Barney West at the recent Community Centre advisory committee meeting prompted Castlemilk Today to ask some pertinent questions about the use of the Community Centre premesis (subsidised from your rates) for commercial activities. Acoording to Mr West the Karate club, held in the Community Centre, seems to be run on the same lines and to charge similar fees to privately run clubs in the city centre. Apart from a £4 per head registration fee and a charge of £1 per week the Karate club apparently requires its members to sign an undertaking to pay the weekly charge for a minimum periord of six months whether or not they remain members for that periord.

Community Centre warden Mr J. Mayers agrees that this procedure is at least unusual and states that he has been in touch with the Karate club organiser and will insist on changes. Mr Myers points out that the Karate club is not run under the auspices of the Education Department and does not in itself form any charge on official funds but relies on members contributions. Castlemilk Today, however, feels that the Community Centre premesis should not be used by clubs run on strict commercial lines but should be available only for activities which provide a service to the community on a non-profit making basis.

No 23 Nov.

The Editor
Honest objective presentation of facts is an essential in journalism, at any level, if the publications in question is to prosper. Judged by the contribution "Kangaroo Courts" the future of "Castlemilk Today" is bleak indeed.
This contribution is dishonest, inaccurate and, I believe, most subjective in that it appears that the contributor in engaging in personal animosities directed against Community Centre personnel. (In this respect the cartoon is most objectionable and in extremely bad taste).
The Castlemilk Community Association appreciates the value and potential for good of "Castlemilk Today" but I would point out that benefit can only be derived from this paper if editorial policy is good which, at present, is not the case.
I would suggest to those who control "Castlemilk Today" that editorial policy must be changed - or the Editor!

James Hardy
178 Castlemilk Drive
Glasgow G45

Castlemilk Today's Comment

It is a waste of time appealing for a change of Editor as Castlemilk Today has no Editor as such. If individuals wish to influence the paper's policy they should come to the editing meetings (every Wednesday in the Community Centre) and argue their point. These meetings are open to all and decisions are taken democratically and in the light of the paper's constitution

- Castlemilk Today.

C/TODAY No 24 DEC. 1976.

Dear Castlemilk Today,

I would like to thank the following people for their kindness and generous donations, which enabled us, the Machrie and Barlia Area of the Castlemilk Tenants Association to give food parcels to pensioners living alone in this area.

First, Alfies' Ices, who contributed very generously, to David and Carol of the Butchers Shop in Machrie Road who displayed a jar on the counter, gave a personal donation also collected the food and helped deliver it. To Mr. Kirkpatrick and Gordon(Machrie Road Newsagent). A big thanks to the boys of Langside Garage. To all Tenants who donated and last, but not least, my Committee who helped me pack and distribute the food parcels. Once again I thank you all very much and would like to extend warmest Seasonal Greetings and Good Health to all tenants of Castlemilk in the coming year.

Catherine McDonald,
62 Machrie Road.
Chairperson. Castlemilk Tenants Association.

STOLEN: Typewriter Gabriele 25 ADLER serial no : 15738824. This machine used in the production of this newspaper. Reward offered for recovery.

Dear Castlemilk Today,

I am an OAP and I would like to thank the Labour Club for their lovely dinner and entertainment at Christmas and the gift of £1. It was a great Christmas feeling and I would like to thank all the people who helped to make us all happy. The staff, Committee and lunch club staff for all their good work, also the cloakroom lady who took care of all our coats and would not take anything for it. She just said have a nice time and your coats will be all right. I heard she has been with the club since it opened.

Thanks to all for a wonderful time.

From your OAP visitor.

I would like to make a complaint about dampness in my house. I have been trying for over a year now to get something done about it. I first noticed the dampness in the bathroom, about a year ago. Since then, the workmen have been out twice and striped the paper off and applied stuff to the walls, but, it has not helped any. I have also got dampness in both bedrooms, the front one is the worst. I have just papered the front room about six weeks ago and now the fungus is about 18 inches up the wall from one end to the other. I reported it to the corporation and a man came out to see it. He said they would have to come and strip the walls and treat them. He told me to give them 3 weeks and if nothing was done I would have to go somebody else.

Mrs Hogg

TEDDY TAYLOR M.P.
is available to meet constituants and advise on any problems at the Conservative Rooms, 30 Clincart Rd. Mount Florida, Every Saturday 10 a.m. - 12 noon.
NO APPOINTMENTS NEEDED

Dear Castlemilk Today,

I would like to answer Barney West's letter of last month and I hope he will accept what I say as friendly criticism. I mean it in that sense.

I know Barney sits as Chairman of a number of Committees such as Advisory Committee, Civic Week Committee and that some people see this as a benefit to Castlemilk improving its image. I know that Civic Week is the result of months of organising and putting together close on a hundred different activities and is an earnest effort to have the people enjoy themselves. It takes a lot of hard work which should be appreciated. Barney West is doing a good job - Okay - no criticism of that. However, there is another side to Castlemilk that these committee members never see. They may be interested in the good image of the place but they never become part of the real deep rooted problems of the people of Castlemilk.

For example, the criticism of the Rent Office is seen by Barney as a bad thing. Mr. Gillan attends a Tenants Meeting, takes complaints and gets repairs attended to. Good Oh! However, a woman makes a complaint that her sink is in a chipped condition after 15 years use and is a health hazard. Can she get a new one? Not on your sweet life. If a woman wants a new fence because the old one has fallen down after a number of years - can she have it - Yes - if she pays for it. The same thing applies with a fireplace, if she likes to pay for it she can have a new one. These people in the Rent Office do not see the point. We have already paid in rent and rates the cost of these items. It is their duty to replace them, but they want to charge us again for what we have already paid. They seem to think it is cheek for working people to expect these things in order to make their home more comfortable.

Furthermore, when some people fall behind with their rent (and if at some time you do not, then you are very fortunate) and are summoned to the Rent Office it can be a horrible experience. The bullying and threats that leave some women in such a condition that they are unable to eat or sleep is a scandal (and don't say it's not true, it is). Complaining to Mr. Gillan does not stop this practice. The rent officer seems to pay no attention if he is disciplined, but I will say this in his favour.???I've never heard of him bullying a man.

Regarding the Social Security, I agree that there are bound to be a few cases where some people are unreasonable with the staff and may behave badly, but that is not what the majority of people are like. Their complaints are fair and many are driven to the point of anger because of the helplessness of their situation and the unnecessary Red Tape that some officials - who couldn't care less - bind them with.

We feel that, if we can help people in these situations to know their rights, and help ourselves by organising along with them to demand our rights, then what we are doing is a just cause. We don't apologise for publishing articles that draw attention to injustice. They know what we are saying and that is why they continue to buy "Castlemilk Today." I do not think, Barney, that the paper has a chip on its shoulder as you suggest, I think by exposing this side of Castlemilk, it is an attempt at beneficial propoganda. Sweeping it under the carpet does no one any good. Things must be changed. If our councillors wont change things then they must be sacked and replaced by people who will. This is the only way they pay attention.

In conclusion, there are a large number of people who do take part in trying to change the set up. It is a struggle but we keep at it by spending our time, money and energy in trying to make - not a better image - but trying to make the lives of people who live in Castlemilk, happier and more comfortable. So you see Barney, we don't mean to be destructive. I honestly believe that if you moved into our area of work for three or four months then you would be a real convert. I think your energy is needed in this field, and that goes for anyone else in the area who would like to help. We need you, and will be glad to hear from you, so come along and join the Goodies and help to fight the not so Goodies.

E. Graham.

Do You Know? BY Nosey.

Do you know....Teddy Taylor has taken up jogging to keep fit and his trousers keep falling down....and....that champion of the working classes Dennis Healey has sold one of his houses in Sussex for forty thousand pounds - bought another house in Sussex for sixty five thousand pounds and sold another of his houses in Highgate for seventy thousand pounds - while staying at No 11 Downing Street at public expense. Next door at No.10 is Jim Callaghan, that other champion of the working classes, who bought a 138 acre farm for twenty thousand pounds and is asking - wait for it - one hundred thousand pounds....and....that Harold Lever lives in a five hundred thousand pound, ten bedroom FLAT in Londons' Eaton Square....and these people are telling working people that asking for wage increases over 10% will ruin the country!

Do you know....that a fat lady who fell in the snow got up and said "The thing that held ma bust, bust, and ma bust, bust oot"

Do you know....that Councillor Fitch(Cathcart & Linn) told a public meeting that the Advice Centre constitution was open to change when it was not ....and that he was so angry at Castlemilk Todays' report that he was going to publish a statement - but, he said, the paper probably would not publish it. He was assured that it would be published, but as usual, he has come up with nothing after three months of waiting.

Do you know....that the Horseshoe Community Council from the Ardencraig Area can get about 10 people to go to it's meetings and yet the Ardencraig Womens Action Group can get seventy people at their meetings. In fairness it should be pointed out the Community Council is run by Councillors but the Womens Group is run by the women themselves, no Committee or Councillors....and.... that anyone who is having difficulty with their Social Security Benefit or heating allowance or diet allowance or any other problems with the S.S. can join the "Claimants Union", who are found at the Social Work Building, 15 Dougrie Terrace and will be given every help to get their proper rights.

It's outstanding that Brenda Johnston has enough respect for the Castlemilk people and the decency to let them know what is going on in George Square and what she is trying to do for them.

No wonder the Nats are getting so much support in Castlemilk.

Do you Know....that over sixty million pounds was unclaimed by people last year from social services...

...(what was that about scroungers?)...

...and that over seven hundred and fifty million pounds unpaid taxes by company bosses, etc. are still outstanding

...(what was that about scroungers?)...

...and that over eleven million pounds is paid out every day - yes, every day - by the government to keep private companies in business and they don't have to pay it back

...(what was that about scroungers?)...

Do you know....that a certain gentleman who owns a greyhound finds that his dog is so slow that he is willing to exchange his timing watch for any gaily decorated up to date calendar....and that a chap who found a box full of toilet rolls has been constipated for 3 weeks.

....and that's all for this month, folks!

Have a good February.

CITY OF GLASGOW DISTRICT COUNCIL
CATHKIN WARD (Castlemilk South)
Councillor JOHNSON
HOLDS A LOCAL SURGERY AT COMMUNITY CENTRE on SATURDAYS at 10.30 - 12 noon

Adult Literacy

There is an active and well established Adult Literacy group working in St. Margaret Mary's Secondary school, but they could use more volunteers and would like to teach more of those who could use help. Tutots and students meet in the school in Dougrie Road, one evening a week, and both Tutors and students are local people.

Adult literacy isn't school. The School building is used for meeting simply because it is convenient. There is always a relaxed atmosphere with time for chats and a tea break.

There are 40 people studying in Castlemilk right now, with more waiting to join them. The staff hope that more still will join, but there is a problem. More tutors are needed.

Only you can solve this problem. Tutors don't need formal qualifications, just the ability to read and write, a friendly nature and a free evening a week.

If you would like to help drop in at St Margaret Mary's on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening or phone 'ON THE MOVE' - 041 332 4028.

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Thanks for the memory

Do you remember those happy days when, after a visit to the cinema or a nice evening stroll, one made for the 'chippie' where in the warm, cosy atmosphere you could purchase a fourpenny 'snack' - everyone's favourite - Fish and Chips!

Nowadays, despite the large drop in the price of potatoes even the simple 'poke' of chips eludes most of the elderly when it still costs 15 and 16p, the same as two years ago when the price went up because of the potato shortage.

Rabbie Burns might lament like this:

Ye ken those happy days lang syne
When aroma drifting made ye pine
Tae sample Johnnie's o' sae fine
The tasty chip.

For since within that cosy hoose
Where talk and laughter aye cut loose,
Wi' crackle and splutter John did produce
The golden chip.

Alas, alack, the chips are doon -
But no' in siller - it's hauf-a-croon
Tae get a poke, a' crisp and broon,
O' lovely chips.

PEPE

C/Today. No 31. Feb. 1978.

IT'S AN ALL-STAR LINE-UP FOR

CONSPIRACY

Conspiracy:- a combination of persons for an evil purpose. "We will dictate to you and we will control the centre as long as we have millions of pounds invested in community centres."

This how Mr Kerr, one of the "high heid yins" from Bath Street who dictate how community centres will be run, told the people how much final say they will have in the way they run the Castlemilk Community Centre. To hear such statements you would think that Mr Kerr and Co had poured the money into the building of the place he does not see himself as being employed by the rate payers to do their bidding. He sees himself as the one who has the privilege of judging what will or will not be done by the people. Let me say that if Mr Kerr was in any way remotely connected to the supply of money that it takes to build or run the centre then I would agree he should have the same say as the people of Castlemil in the running of the centre. But this person who thinks he has the right to dictate and control has no right whatsoever to do so and only by the disgraceful abuse of self-appointed ego and by deceiving, and being irresponsible in his duty to the centre members can he justify his statements and conduct. And he is not alone - a special meeting was called by 45 centre members signing a petition (which is the legal way to do so) because they wanted to continue to alter the constitution. It had already been changed but four parts had still to be discussed and changed if the members wished, and this was why the petition had been presented. Now according to the way Mr Absolem, the area supervisor advised members no other business shall be discussed than that intimated in the petition conveneing the special meeting and the agenda must be displayed in the centre for at least seven days before the meeting to let members know what was the only business to be allowed at the meeting When this agenda was not displayed Mr Absolem was asked why and at a meeting with four other people Mr Absolem gave a solemn promise that he would display the petition agenda. Because of his previous behaviour which readers of "Castlemilk Today" have been informed of on previous occasions, it was essential to have witnesses of his assurances, and so it was pointed out by these people that they were placing their trust on his word as a person in a responsible position and again asked for his sincere word. He repeated his promise in the seincerest of pledges and we left with this trust.

THE AGENDA WAS NOT DISPLAYED
MR ABSOLEM BROKE HIS WORD.

Before 7.30 p.m. 24 January, when the meeting was to take place it became quite clear that some kind of surprise was in store as a Mr Kerr from Bath Street, Mr Muir and Mr Fitch and two regional councillors, and a Mr Swindon were assembled at the table of the "heid bummers" Mr Absolem had, without discussing with the centre members who had signed the petition or asking their permission, requested these people to come and asked Mr Kerr to address the meeting upon what was acceptable to the Bath Street people who told us they would dictate and control the Community Centre. Here we have again Mr Absolem telling us only the petition agenda can be discussed, breaking his word and behind our backs using people to prevent any changes being allowed. The meeting was side tracked into what Bath Street decided and steam-roller used by Mr Kerr to cover the under-hand dealings of Mr Absolem. Mr Kerr assured us that any decisions taken by the members legally and democratically would have their sympathetic consideration. "Are their any questions?" Mr Graham asked Mr Kerr "As the decision to change the constitution in some parts had been done legally in the procedure laid down, at the previous meeting, would Bath Street now accept them?" Mr Kerr did not answer. The chairman accepted another question and then another and another. Mr Kerr answered the centre is your centre and WE DON'T WANT TO DICTATE TO YOU HOW TO RUN THE CENTRE - How's that for a crazy mixed up kid. So Mr Graham pointed out that Mr Kerr had not answered his question and again asked " as the changes had been done in the proper manner would Bath Street accept them?" Mr Kerr again evaded the question and did not answer. The chairman releived his embarrassment by accepting a motion from someone that a few people from the advisory committee be appointed to draw up a guide line of a new constitutionand present it to the Advisory Committee for approval. Mrs Miller proposed an amendment that these people should be elected from the people at this meeting, both these ideas were seconded and voted upon. The motion was accepted by 87 to 29 votes so these people will be appointed not elected. How is that for democracy. In defence of the under-hand procedures that Mr McWhinney pointed out that he had asked that Mr Kerr be invited to speak at a meeting.

However, if Mr McWhinney had got up a petition by 40 people and called a Special Meeting to allow Mr Kerr to speak that would have been accepted. But he did not.

As Mr Absolem pointed out this Special Meeting could discuss only the further changes to the constitution. So Mr McWhinney's case holds no water. We did the hard work and Mr Absolem and Mr Kerr did the dirty work. I am again pointing out that we have the area supervisor, Mr Absolem deliberately misleading people, breaking his word, defying the wishes of the people, and forcing his own interest upon the people. Other business was refused any time, and the chairman closed the meeting in order to save faces becoming any redder,

One good thing may have come after the meeting and that is that Councillor Fitch agreed at Mr. Grahams request, to take an interest in what was happing at the advisoy meeting and try to find a way of breaking the strangle hold that the advisory committee has, in certain cases. Mr. Kerr also agreed that anyone who wished to use the telephone in the Community Centre does not have to be a member of the Community Centre and does not have to show a membership card to do so. Hows that for freedom? You lucky people. However if you are not a member of the Centre you cannot buy a cup of tea. Thats taboo the noo.

There can be no doubt about the size of the majority who voted and their decision must be accepted by all members, but I find it sad that such a conspriracy has been sprung upon all members. And clean thinking people never suspect such practises are going to be used, and even after they have been used, find it difficult to believe people would degrade them and discard what self respect they have and use innocent well meaning people to carry out the deed.

P.S. A villain pointed out that he had been one of the people who helped build the centre, and that it was not built for the use of children, and he does not like children anyway.

"KERRYING OOT" THE POLICY

"WE WILL DICTATE TO YOU AND WE WILL CONTROL THE CENTRE"

TEN MINUTES LATER

"THE CENTRE IS YOUR CENTRE - WE DON'T WANT TO DICTATE TO YOU HOW TO RUN THE CENTRE"

CASTLEMILK TODAY

Issue NO34

Price 5p

OVER AND IN!

Most readers of 'Castlemilk Today' will know that controversy has been raging in and around the Community Centre for over a year. Most will now be glad to know that at last the situation looks ready to improve.

Turning Point

The turning point came when the Director of Education for the Strathclyde Region, Mr. Edward Miller, personally involved himself in the affair, and confirmed that change was overdue in the running of the Centre.

He removed the Area Organiser, Mr. Absolom, from the Centre, and after consultation with Mr. George Bain, Deputy Director of Education, he sent Mr. Eliot Hill, Divisional Education Officer from Dunbarton, to make a full enquiry into the situation. Mr. Hill had 2 meetings with representatives of both 'groups' among the Centre membership — (those wanting basic change and those opposed to it) —, and presumably with staff as well. Centre members have not had a copy of Mr. Hill's report, but following it, perhaps by coincidence, Mr. P.K. Corsair, in charge of Community Education for the Glasgow Divisional Education Officer Mr. Cranston, has been moved to another area of responsibility, and has been replaced by Mr. William Gray. Mr. Absolom has now been replaced by Mr. David Armstrong.

Following discussion with Mr. Bain, Mr. Loggie and Mr. Cranston, Mr. Gray was authorised to make 2 proposals for Castlemilk Community Centre:

a) The Space Problem:

Since the one thing that everybody has always agreed on is that our Centre is far too small for the needs of Castlemilk, the Education Dept. now hope it will become possible to 'annex' school accommodation to the Centre when required. This should mean that no group applying to the Centre will be refused accommodation. It will be up to the Advisory Committee or equivalent to decide 'who goes where', perhaps by some kind of ballot system.

b) The Constitution — Important Changes:

The Education Dept. offered our Centre a constitution used by community centres in Ayrshire. It has been given to the Working Party appointed by our Acvisory to produce a new draft constitution, and this group are working on it now. As the Chairman, Mr. Barney West, told Centre Members at the AGM, the Working Party hope soon to finish the job and present the constitution to all members to discuss. There are some important changes in the pipeline, so the Working Party want the discussion to be as full as possible. The new constitution will be a vital 'next step' in the

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

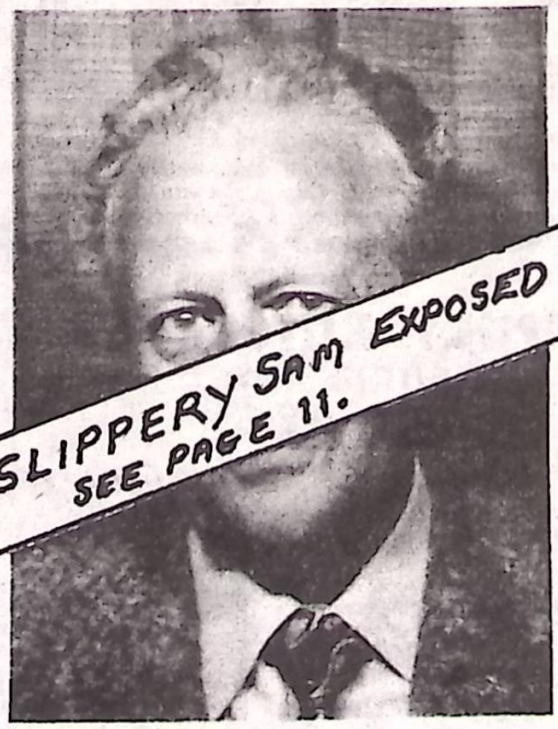
development of our Community Centre.

What's Needed Now:

The hope is that the changes, so much fought over during the past year, will be a starting point in transforming the Community Centre. But for any transformation to be for the good, 2 things will now be needed:

1) Everybody concerned with establishing the 'new' policy will have to accept that the part they have played carries a responsibility, to explain as clearly and as often as necessary, to everybody else, exactly what is happening and what it all means; and

2) Everybody who wants to use the Centre will have to start thinking, not just how they can use it, but how everyone can share it. When the extra accommodation is made available, this should become easier. And if we all start working out the practical problems of sharing, with give and take from all ages and stages, a real community based on the Centre may at last come into being.



SLIPPERY SAM EXPOSED! SEE PAGE 11.

SLIPPERY SAM

In a publication called 'SCAN' - Scotland's monthly newspaper on health, leasure and community education - (August -78) there is a feature on the retirement of one of Glasgow's Community Education Advisors, Sam Swinton.

After some obligatory 'pap' the article explains Sam's fears that young people may recieve less consideration in future developments in Community Education. Indeed the article shows that Sam likes to think of himself as having championed the cause of youth within community education over his many years of service. There would appear to be nothing wrong with Sam's crusade. However its revelation in the press came as something of a shock to people who had been unaware of its existance.

You see during certain meetings of a working party, set up to recomend ehanges within the Community Centre, Sam made clear his positive dislike of changes that would encourage young people to participate on an equal footing with adults in the Community Centre. Indeed he dismissed as 'Old hat' a recent official education department report (the Alexander report) which argued for just such changes.

It would seem that Sam's idea of championing the cause of youth is to make certain that people like himself, and certainly not young people themselves, organise everything for youth and make all the decisions.

From what we read in the article in SCAN it would appear that Sam is all of a piece. The article shows up Sam's dislike of two other education department reports (The Worthington and Holland reports) which argue that the Education Department should gradually give up some of its controle over Community Centres and allow local people to start running such Centres for themselves.

People on the above working party could confirm this attitude in Sam. You see this working party was set up by the Community Centre Advisory Committee which selected the twelve people who were to sit on it. To the surprise of many and disgust of some at the working party's first meeting two new people turned up quite uninvited - Miss Banks , Warden of the centre, and Slippery Sam himself. Immediatly there was an objection against their presence at the meeting. But instead of taking the hint Sam boldly claimed that as he and Miss Banks were both education department officials they had a right to be present in an advisory capacity.

So you see Sam not only considers that he is more competant to decide what is best for young people than young people themselves but he also considers that people in Castlemilk can only be trusted to make right decisions as long as they are advised and guided by people like himself.

The reason why Sam thought it necessary to prevent the working party from recommending that some power be taken from the warden and given to the community only became clear when it was announced that he had married Miss Banks. While one can sympathise with a man's desire to lend moral support to the woman he intends to marry it is another thing when he uses this as an excuse to prevent people from legitimatly demanding a say in the controle of their Community Centre.

CASTLEMILK TREASURE STOLEN

At the Annual General Meeting of the Community Centre Mr. Parker, minutes secretary at the previous general meeting, was accused, in his absence, of having stolen the minutes. When questioned later, Mr. Parker had nothing printable to say. However, we have it on good authority that minutes of Community Centre meetings can fetch a considerable amount of money in the Barrowland Black Market. Much interest has arisen locally in this 'scandal' as it is rumoured that recent Morecambe and Wise shows to have clearly been greatly influenced by the repartee preserved in these documents. We of Castlemilk Today consider it our civic duty to ask publicly whether the custodians of these documents have now taken the necessary precautions to see that their 'Treasures of Castlemilk' will in the future be adequately protected.

...to with thanks to: Tom Gallacher, South Glasgow and Rutherglen Reformer.

I and another member of "Castlemilk Today" were invited to a demonstration right at the Hair Design Salon. Miss Denise Ghijben was demonstrating a new hair-care treatment, developed by Mahdeen Laboratories. The aim of this treatment is to re-vitalize the hair.

First the hairdresser will check whether your hair is dry, oily, out of condition, clinically damaged, or if you have dandruff. Then your individual treatment is selected. If you have dandruff for example, ...

Black Camelot, by Duncan Kyle. Treachery and ... story of Himmler's secret files provide the ...

In his image: the cloning of a man, by David ... the exact replication of a human being from ... caused a storm of scientific controversy. Fa... read.

Nostalgia isn't what it used to be, by Simo... at the top" tells the story of her life in p...

Devil's gamble, by Frank G.Slaughter. Spell ... supernatural from best selling author.

The two, by Irving and Amy Wallace. Story of ... insight and warmth, and with such a superb se... bizarre, heroic, tragic and human their lives ...

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And in second place was James ...

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REFRESHES AREAS OTHER PAPERS FAIL TO REACH

clydeside alternative monthly. number 7

INSIDE...

Renfrew victory
Thistle takeover?
Colonel "B" speaks
Jordanhill revolts
Workers Co-ops
Rent Strike

Centre Suspends Democracy

AN EXTRAORDINARY SITUATION HAS BEEN DEVELOPING IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN CASTLEMILK OVER THE PAST 18 MONTHS.

As many readers will be aware, Castlemilk is a huge post-war housing scheme with a population of 40,000. What may not be so well known, however, is that Castlemilk is classed as a "deprived area" with comparitively few amenities. As will readily be appreciated the local Community Centre consequently serves an important function as a social focul point for the people of the are

The Centre has been in existence for 10 years, but over the last 18 months the unprogressive attitude of the Education authorities (who run the place) and some of the established groups have been challenged by newer, younger members who wish to encourage a wider community participation in the Centre.

Some of the older,established groups are against a wider community involvement as this would break their monopoly over the use of the building. Far from dispelling this ,the Education authorities have encouraged them in their very selfish ideas.

Indeed so anxious have Education Department officials been to maintain the status quo, they have been prepared at times to stoop to personal threats,. attacks on members, harrassment and lies.

Ultimately, these Officials declared null & void a Special General Meeting which effected changes in the Constitution of the Centre which could have meant a wider & more democratic use of the Centre.

While people were still reeling from the effects of these outrages,the Education Department's latest actor in the farce appeared with the appointment of a new Warden Mrs.Banks, who has shown by

Mr. George Absolom

her actions to lack even a shred of integrity & diplomacy. She blatently & defiantly abuses her authority to the extent of disregarding democratic and constitutional procedures.

Recently, for instance, she suspended two girls,Miss M. Moore & Miss C.Forbes from membership of the Centre - which she is entitled to do. She did NOT, however, raise the matter at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee - which as Warden she is obliged to do. The result of this is that the girls are still suspended and cannot enter the Community Centre.

Further to this, when protests were made to her by centre members, one of these members (Mr.J.Cooper) received a letter saying that he had also been suspended from membership. The reason given for this action was "disrespectful behaviour towards the Warden".

CONTINUED on Page Three

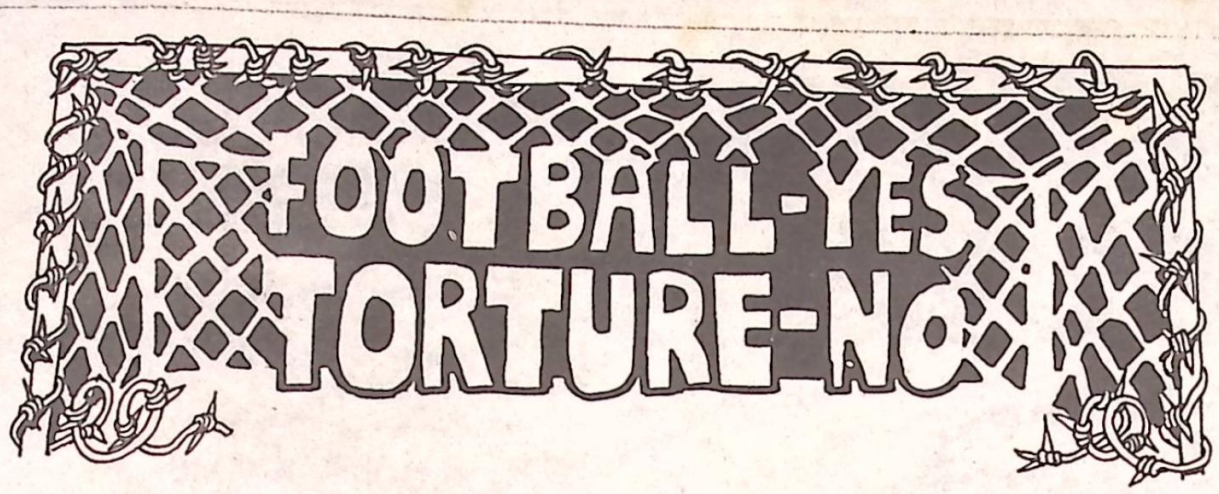
CONTINUED from Page One

The course of action which resulted in Mr. J.Cooper's suspension, was advised by Mr. Absalom - Mrs, Banks superior. Mr.Absalom had on a previous occasion physically ASSAULTED Mr.Cooper. As a result of this action he received a warning from the police.

At the moment, these suspensions still stand - despite admissions from senior Education Department officials that Mrs. Banks did not strict

that Mrs Banks did not strictly adhere to procedure. Strong protests have been made by a large number of Centre members regarding Mrs Banks behaviour in the situation. We hope that ultimately these will be heeded by her superiors.

C.M.



The military coup that seized power from the corrupt failing government of Isabelle Peron in March 1976 attracted little international attention and was generally welcomed by the majority of Arg-

that a return to democratic government effected.

However such hopes were almost immediately dashed as the government initiated their policy of economic and political repression, b anning trade unions - and rather than stamping out the AAA terror gang - stepping up the policy of imprisoning, kidnapping and assassination of any potential opposition. Since the coup Amnesty International estimates that 8000 people have disappeared, 8000 assassinated and 15000 imprisoned without trial or even charges being brought against them. The right of def-

economic policies - at the expense of the Argentinian working class.

With the arrangements for the World Cup nearing completion the Government has hired the American public relations firm Burson and Marsteller on a £1m contract to generate favourable publicity and to provide the view of life in Argentina as one of sun, football and pamaps. In this respect the Argentina government's cynical use of the World Cup competition for propaganda purposes has many parallels with Hitler's use pf the 1936 Munich Olympics.

To counteract this propaganda and to expose the horror that is the reality of everyday life in Argentina, the Scottish Agegentina Campaing, along with other groups such as Amnesty International, Third World First and the Committee for Human Rights in Argentina ave been active in holding etings, pressing for infor- ion on 'disappeared' ons and campaigning for release, and urging the h Government both to ssure onVidela andto a visa programme to entinian political sylum in the UK.

[redacted]

enforce a trade or at least an arms embargo on the Junta have succeded. In the USA Carter's foreign policy and his stand on human rights has; meant a moral set back for Videla but he still enjoys support from the multi nationals who are f avoured by his

The Scottish Argentina Campaign has a busy programme of events coming up, including a flag day and a concert with both Scottish and Argentinian folk musicians on June 4th. (Tickets from Phil O'Brien

51 Clouston Street, 946 4937).

JA

Unremitting repression enters third year

From ZERO May/June no. 6, anarca-feminist newsmagazine.

Since the bloody military takeover in Argentina in March 1976, tens of thousands have either been killed, arrested, tortured, imprisoned without trial, or have simply disappeared. We have received information concerning just one of these people.

On February 28th last year, Nelida Forti, a 41 year old member of the Argentinian Libertarian Movement, was arrested at Buenos Airies International Airport, along with 5 of her 6 children. They were on their way to Venezuela to join up with Nelida's husband, who had already been forced to seek refuge there. Police stopped the plane as it was taxiing down the runway, and seized Nelida and her 5 children. After learning news of the arrests, the FORA (anarcho-syndicalist union) and the Libertarian Federation began organising release work, in very difficult circumstances. After 15 days the children were released from custody but the authorities then denied any knowledge as to the whereabouts of Nelida Forti, saying she had at no time been held in detention.

The implications are obvious. Widespread international protest is the most effective way of bringing pressure against the fascist regimes of Latin America. It's important that as many people as possible write letters to the Argentine authorities (in Britain: Argentine Embassy, 9 Wilton Crescent, London SW1) demanding Nelida Forti's release☐

Dear GPP,

Until the Scottish Council for Civil Liberties conference on Children's Rights I had never heard RF macKenzie speak and it was only after hearing him that I read his autobiogr aphical 'The Unbowed Head', but his reputation has gone before him, for once perfectly justified.

It was with some disappointment therefore that I read his 'Axe to Grind' in the last issue of your paper and I feel that his points should not go unanswered.

1. Private Eye in all school libraries? Sure what is taught in our schools is rubbish and hypocrisy, serving only the staus quo when it is the function of education to challenge it. But is Private Eye any better? Hardly, since it is omly a clever, clever mirror image of the same nonsense & hypocrisy - sexist, elitist, racist, a magazine for the new radical chic managers, thos who have made it and those are on their way to the top.

Once there might have been an argument for the rag - or at least parts of it - the vintage Footnotes on the Kray twins, Poulson, Ronan Point and Heart transplants, the savage caricatures of Scarfe and Steadman, the Dave Spart spoof on the Trot press - but little of this remains. And that little scarcely justifies the rest of the pathetic magazine. No fundam-

ental attitudes will ever challenged within its pag since it is part of those attitudes and no real change will ever come from reading it.

2. The EIS. Again what MacKenzie says is correct but asking Jimmy Milne or the STUC to do something about the EIS is rather like asking the Mafia to do something about Lucky Luciano. They're all part of the same gang, different only in degree, and they all h have the same function in society, that of controlling their members. The EIS does this as well as any other union and the other ideas it might have about belting children are really optional extras on the trade union package deal. Expelling the EIS (Educational Idiocy in Scotland?) from the STUC won't change their reactionary ideas. Nor will their staying in it. It's really irrelevant to trade unions.

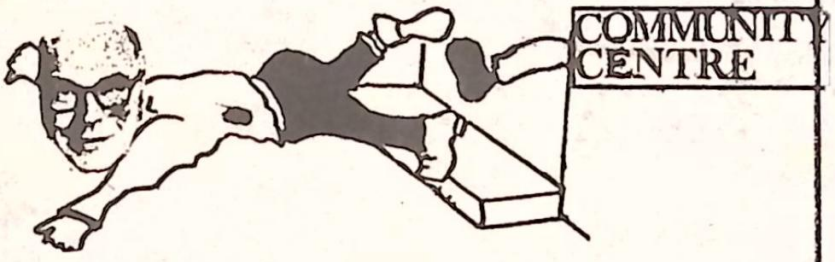
CONTINUED PAGE 7/ 4th column.

GLASGOW PEOPLES PRESS. N°9. SEPT. 1976.

CASTLEMILK Centre FORWARD

Readers may remember a report in GPP no.7 of the undemocratic procedures used by Education Department Officials against certain members of the Community Centre.

Although the official reason for Mr. Absolom's move is, "a change around of staff", there can be little doubt that his behaviour has in fact been so much of an embarrasment to his bosses that they have decided to deploy his considerable talents elsewhere - Priesthill, beware !



Since then we are happy to report the suspensions on these members have been lifted and such measures have now been restricted by order of the Director of Education.

This has been accompanied by the departure of Mr. Absolom, Area Organiser in the Community Education Service, and who in the past had been a principal aggressor in the oppressive regime.

These changes have only been achieved after continuous pressure on senior Education Department officials by concerned groups & individuals in the Centre.

Another step forward is a complete review of the Centre's function & role in the community.

Despite these apparent successes, remnants of the reign of terror remain. Some of the old guard in the centre find a transition to democracy difficult to adapt to. And sad to say, their prejudices are nurtured by the unenlightened Warden of the Centre, Mrs. Banks.

The struggle continues.....

'Fresh Milk'.

SUSPENSIONS — Unconstitutional Procedure.

① Moira + Christine

a/ The girls were not simply suspended pending the next sitting of the Ad·Comm. as is the procedure, nor were they suspended formally.

b/ The Warden added extra months' suspension on, each time the girls entered the Centre to discuss their situation with her.

c/ The steward, with the Warden's knowledge, was also following this practice, despite the fact that he has no authority to do so.

d/ The girls were not even allowed to debate the action of their suspension with the Warden; it is debateable if the girls understand clearly the Wardens reason for sanction.

e/ It is not clear in fact, if the girls have broken any "rules."

* f/ When the Ad·Comm. meeting took place, the Warden did not notify the Comm. of the girls suspension.

* g/ The Warden did not notify either of the girls of the Ad·Comm. meeting, the procedure + their right to state their case - in fact when the girls found out through other sources, they were warned that they would not get on

② S. Cooper.

a/ I was informed by recorded letter that a W/P of the Ad·Comm. had suspended me pending the next A·C. Meet.

* This W/P in fact did not come into being by authority of the Ad·Comm.

b/ Even if this had been the case, a centre member can only be suspended for infringing the rules of the Centre or the Constitution; the letter stated that I had been suspended in view of my "disrespectful behaviour" to the Warden.

c/ I dispute that I had ~~been disrespectful in my behaviour~~ shown any lack of respect to the Warden.

d/ Although other people besides myself had voiced criticism of the Wardens procedure in the girls situation, I alone suffered suspension as a result of an illegitimate ~~action~~

* W/P. This obliges me to consider the possibility of unfair discrimination against me. e/ Why had ~~such~~ a formal suspension procedure been ~~instituted on me, not on the two girls?~~ used in my case, yet not in the girls?

f/ In ~~each~~ a second recorded ~~del~~ letter the Ad. stated that she had been instructed by the Ad·Comm to send me the minutes. This was not so. What had in fact been said - by the Chairman of the Ad. - was that the Ad Comm would ~~severely censure~~ consider a formal censure

(2) Midlands' refusal to take letter of complaint from Centre members.

(3) Mr Swintons' reinforcing of this.

(4). The great amount of time, energy, trouble & expense, which people have had to expend in order to combat a denial of their basic rights in this situation.

(5) Apology from the people concerned to these centre members.
Apology from the people concerned to the members unjustly suspended.

(6) Action on the situation generally.
Promise that such unconstitutional procedures will not be allowed in future.

Question of the legitimacy of W/C meeting:
Who called this meeting?
For what purpose?
Who was present?
Was proceedings minuted?
If so, copy of the minutes.

(1) The members listed below wish to call a Extraordinary General Meeting because of the irresponsible behaviour of the Glenties Miss Bands. We wish this meeting to take place before the next Advisory Meeting on the 5th June.

---

1 ANNO KELLY 29 ARNPRIOR RD CASTLEMILK
2 LYNNE MURPHY 31 ARNPRIOR RD CASTLEMILK
3 EDDIE MCKENNA 7312
4 ~~DOROTHY MC NIVEN~~ 34 Raithlinn Loan 660.
5 Carol Cooper
6 Colin McPherson 47 Castlemilk DR
7 Ruth Goldie 2 Downeraig Rd. CC. 50
8 John Cooper 6722 CC 1122
9 P Cleron 51 ARNPRIOR Rd
10 Jock Muir 127, Barlia Dr. CC 1122
11 Ed Graham 101/5 Mitchellhill Rd.
12 Danny McKenna 21 Rostifoot Quad.
13 Andy Taylor 92 Glenacur Drive G45.
14 J. Fox 12 ARNPRIOR QUAD.
15 J FRASER 9 BARLIA DR
~~[illegible]~~ ~~20 Castlemilk Dr~~
~~[illegible]~~ ~~Auchencraig Dr~~
16 J. Gorrell 18 ARDMALEISH RD.
17 J Kelly 76 Castlemilk Dr. ~~[illegible]~~
18 K Kavanagh 9 Ballantay Quad.
19 A Taylor ~~[illegible]~~, 98 HOLMBYRE RD.
20 Mark Hughes ~~18 Arnhem Rd.~~ ~~[illegible]~~

(2)

The Managers listed below wish to call an Extraordinary General Meeting because of the irresponsible behavior of the Warden Miss Banks. We wish this meeting to take place before the next Advisory Meeting on the 5th June.

21	Ian Gillan	5 ~~Lea~~ Ampior Quad.
22	~~J. Sheridan~~	~~6 Ringdale Rd~~
23	E M'Ewan	54 Mackie RD
24	E Cranston	8 Mackie street
25	C Darrock	15 Cavin DR
26	A. Livingston	67 Stranraer Rd
27	J. Whittaker	1 Ardmelish Gres
28	M McDonald	7 Ballantay Terr.
29	M O'Hanlon	79 Dougrei Rd.
30	George McGregor	109 Castlemilk Drive G45
31	John Gass	11 Barlia Drive Castlemilk
32	Stephen Kane	50 Glenacre Drive
33	Helen Fitzpatrick	83 Barlia DRIVE
34	Elaine Hawieson	21 Dougrei Place
35	Janet Bruce	21 Dougrei Place
36	Frances Denlop	5, Dunagoil Terrace
37	Margaret Roxburgh	2 Dunagoil Terr.
38	Mary Campbell	360 ARDENCRAIG ROAD.
39	Ch. Devlin	31 A/Craig DR
40	Jean Devlin	31 Ardencraig Drive.
41	~~Ada~~ Tierney	43 Hoddam ~~Ave~~,
42	Irene M. Mahon	9 Downerag Rd. Glasgow G45
43	William Craig	22 ardencraig crescent G45
44	Henry Somers	101 Castlemilk Drive
45	[illegible] Craig	22. Ardencraig Cresc.

(3)

46 P. Asta 121 Barna D'
47 C. Edgar 3 Bogany Terr,
48 J. Devlin 31 Alarang Drive,

~~22 MEMBERS~~
~~19 MEMBERS~~
~~44 MEMBERS~~.

49 Andrew Parker 18 Ardencraig Quad.
50 Patricia Parker 18, Ardencraig Quad.
51 Vera Livingstone 467 Castlemilk Rd Glasgow G44
52 Anne McDonald. 318 Allison St. Glasgow G42.
53 E. Livingstone 467 Castlemilk Rd. Glasgow G44
54 Isobel Baby c/o Devlin 31 Ardencraig Rd. C/MILK.

Int. with Mr. Easton, room8, 2nd floor Melrose House, Cadogan St. 204 2800 Ext. 335, (Mr. Easton is a Senior Administrator in the Strath. Reg., & the liason man between Strath. Reg. & the Job Creation Scheme (FOR THE UNDOCUMENTIONED PROJECT) (440, Sachiehall St., 332 9722)
Mr. Easton was interviewed by J.&C. Cooper on frid. 20-8-76 at 11-30am

1 Some General information.

This Job Creation Scheme can be approached by any parties. In this instance the application was made by the St. Reg. on behalf of the Educ. Dept., - specifically Community Ed.

2 Reg. the N/Paper report about details of the project not appearing in Reg. Council Minuets.

Mr. Easton explained that in all instances reports go before two bodies for approval.
In this instance the report was initially submitted to the Manpower Services Comission on 2-6-76, & was approved by them on 10-6-76. Theoretically it should now have gone before the committee concerned, but Mr. Easton explained that machinary exists whereby in certain instances this can be circumnavigated. If the Job Creation Scheme agree to finance the entire cost of a project as in this case, or agree to meet the bulk of the cost, the chairman of the comittee only, needed ~~to consult~~ be consulted, & he can give his approval,-if he feels that the committee would reach that decision. The situation was also extraordinay in the sense that the full project report was not completed in time to appear before the comm.- before the Play Scheme was due to start. The chairman is Dick Stewart, leader of the Labour group, & incidently a member of the Job Creation Scheme "Action Comm". Mr. Stewart was unlikely to disapprove in this case, as he had some involvement in initiating this particular project. As the above measures were carried through, this meant that when the full report was available, it would go to the committee. It is genearally accepted, apparently, that the purpose this second meeting serves is merely for the committees "information".
It was explained to us, that after Mr. Stewart gave his approval, (prior to the play-scheme going into operation), he was not obliged to inform the Local Councillors in the area that the project would take place. It is responce of officials of the Dept (CONCERNED (IE COMM. ED)), at the local level. -IBILITY.
Mr. Easton guesses Mr. Absalom or Mr. Busby.

3 Costs. (a) Original Estimate Cost (about £12,000).
(b) Detail of cost in submission to J.C.S.

For Grant. £14,000 manpower costs
£ 1;424 other costs Total £15,424

Only when the Play Scheme ends can the actual costs be calculated This is done by using control forms some of which are completed by th staff of the comm. centre, using their records of such details as staff wages etc. There are about six forms which cover these details (two examples are attached).
Mr. Easton explains that the system used is fairly rigourous & there -fore that an accurate record of manpower& other costs etc. is obtained. He also said that when these projects are taking place the Manpower Services Comission can send an inspector out to ensure that the project is progressing as planned.
The Comm. Ed. officials at the local level can, of their own initiative, IMPLEMENT a plan of charge for various things, i.e. entry fees to scheme, entrance fees to places, & possibly meals. This would be to supplement the grant money already approved & would be an acceptable procedure if used correctly & and on a non-profit making basis.

4 Saff.

The following details reg. staff were included in the grant application.

Maximum of 50 "Junior Auxillaries" £36-13 max.per wk.
1 Cook
6 Supervisors Wage Scale

The 50 "Junior Auxilliaries" were to be recruited from among unemployed people under 21. No qualifications were required other than that they appeared responsible people.
The supervisors were recruited from Nursery Schools Nurses, who have their holidays at this time. It was agreed that they would be paid the amount of their usual weeks wages, when working at the Play-Scheme. Some difficulty or discrepancy apparently arose which necessitated the Supervisors, (nursery nurses) wages being paid from the £1,424 which had been assigned to meet other costs.
Mr. Easton agreed with us that the project was not specifficaly dessigned to meet the needs of "Deprived Children"-indeed nowhere in the project specification are the words "Deprived Children" used. Mr. Busby unfortunatly has a penchant for using this emotive & ambiguous term when explaining to people the concern & involvment he feels for the Play-Scheme.

Strathclyde Regional Council

With the Chief Executive's Compliments

Mr. J. Cooper
34 Raithburn Ave
Castlemilk
Glasgow
G 45

Melrose House,
19 Cadogan Street,
Glasgow, G2 6HR
Tel. 041-204 2800

Sub-Comm 18 Aug.

ver Services Commission had
undernoted projects, viz. : –

rdrie – Clearance of temporary
5 persons and involving a

cation and training project

on of summer play and care
or 51 persons, mainly Junior
activities.

4 August – 30th Sept Stewarts.

September

EXTRACT FROM EDUCATION (SCHOOLS) SUB-COMM 18 AUG.

Job Creation Scheme Additional projects. PRINT No 9 P900 18TH AUG.

6 The Depute Director of Administration reported that the Manpower Services Commission had approved applications for grant, in terms of the Job Creation Scheme, for the undernoted projects, viz. :—

(1) Formation of blaes pitch on area adjacent to Caldervale High School, Airdrie—Clearance of temporary car park area and formation of pitch providing employment for 5 persons and involving a contribution of £3,004·00 from the Council.

(2) Carfin F.E. Project/Resource Centre—Extension of the existing education and training project to provide employment for 52 persons.

(3) Castlemilk and District Summer Play and Child Care Project—Provision of summer play and care facilities for approximately 350 to 400 children and employment for 51 persons, mainly Junior Auxiliaries, receiving instruction in child care, first aid and other activities.

* MINUTE APPROVED BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE – 24 AUGUST. MOTION SEEN SECONDED.

REGIONAL COUNCIL – 8 SEPTEMBER

that projects (2) to (6) involved no cost to the Council.

(4) Clerical Assistants, Careers Offices, Dumbarton and Renfrew Divisions—Designed to enable the Careers Service to improve its information system in technical colleges and secondary schools and to canvass employers for information not normally available, and to provide employment for 6 young people at each of the two offices, to whom day release facilities for studying appropriate subjects would also be available.

(5) Community Education Assistants, Renfrew Division—Provision of employment for 6 persons in a project designed to assist community groups, mainly in areas of deprivation, to identify immediate needs and to give support where necessary.

(6) Summer Social/Recreation Scheme, Renfrew Division—Provision of employment for 40 persons, the majority being unemployed recently-qualified students, in a scheme offering social, leisure and cultural activities to young people throughout the school holiday period.

The Sub-Committee then (*a*) approved of the action taken in submitting the applications, (*b*) agreed to recommend approval of the Council's contribution of £3,004 towards the cost of the project (1) and (*c*) noted that projects (2) to (6) involved no cost to the Council.

MANPOWER SERVICES COMMISSION

JOB CREATION PROGRAMME

EMPLOYEE ANALYSIS - 4/5 week period ending.....

Project number.....

Number of employees joining the project during the period	
Number of employees leaving the project during the period	
Number on payroll on the last day of the period	
Number on payroll on the last day of the previous period	

Note (a) should correspond to the number of JC3a forms returned

(b) should correspond to the number of JC3b forms returned

JC2 (revised) - March 1976

JOB CREATION PROGRAMME

PROJECT NO. .....

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FOR THE QUARTER ENDED .....

Name of Local Authority .....

Address .....

.....

Project .....

Amount approved .....

Name and tel no. of officer to whom queries are to be addressed .....

Name and address of bank to which payment is to be made .....

	£	p
1 Gross wages and employers contributions		
2 Any other expenditure (give details)		
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		

	£	p
3 Income (give details)		
TOTAL INCOME		
NET ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE		

Interview with Mr. Busby, (Temporary Warden) and Ann Davidson (Asst. Warden) at the Castlemilk Community Centre, on Thurs. 19th Aug. 1976. John & Carol Cooper and Pat Mc Carthy.

We had asked for the interview with Mr. Busby for two reasons.

1. To report Mrs. Irwin (sect. at the community centre).
2. To ask some questions regarding Play_Scheme.

The interview took place in the public lobby, outside the sect. & Wardens offices.

1 When we started to exppain to Mr. Busby that we had a complaint reg. Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Busby told us that "He was not interested, & that we should report the matter to Mr. Brown. " (Comm. Ed.,)
Although we persisted, as it is obvious that as Mrs. Irwin superior, Mr. Busby is obliged to investigate any complaints regarding her, he refused to hear our complaint. At one point he stated "That he was standing by his staff" When we asked him what he meant, he said "That he was satisfied that Mrs. Irwin had coped with the situtiion satisfactorily in his absense. We pointed out that he had only heard one side of the story, ~~but~~ AND that until he had heard ours he couldn't know the full facts, and therefore form any resonable opinion of the matter.
Mr. Busby however, merely reiterated his advice that we should report the matter th Mr. Brown.
The Asst., Warden, Ann Davidson seemed to see the logic of our appeal and stated that she would like to know the details of our complaint.
The possibility of our rendering a detailed explaination of our complaint however was made hopeless, by Mr. Busby interupting here and there with his obbervations and comments.(Despite his previous remarkes about not being interested in our complaint)
We therefore abandoned our efforts to state our complaint at this level, & are forced to take Mr. Busby's advice and take the matter futher.

2 We then asked Mr. Busby some questions reg. the Comm. Centre Play_Scheme Mr. Busby seemed to be at a loss to appreciate why indivduals should be taking such an interest in some details of the Play_Scheme, his answer were therefore coutious, and at times vague.
We asked how many of a staff had been employed during the course of the project. He told us there had been provisions made to employ a staff of 20 Boys & 20 Girls Who would be "helpers", & 6 "Specialist Helpers" He added however, that the number of helpers actually employed during the Scheme fell short of this original estimated number.
~~He asked the &~~

We asked about the New Paper report, reg. the alleged increase in expenditure. Mr. Busby said, this was not the case, but when asked to outline the expenditure to us, he said that, "that was nothing to do with him," and intimated that we would have to get such information elsewhere.

Mr. Busby was however able to answer specifically, one point reg. finance. We explained that some of the people employed during the play-scheme, had claimed that Mr. Busby had told them, (Prior to accepting the job,) that he, "would make up there tax to them, from his funds," & "that they wouldn't lose by it." Mr. Busby denied ever saying anything to that effect to anyone, appealing to us, "how could I possibly do ~~anything like that~~ that?", WHICH IS what we were also wondering. Mr. Busby explained that he had been concerned about the plight of some of the staff, who had experienced difficulty in getting their wages, a week after the play-scheme had ended. (Some of them had been told near the end of the scheme by Mr. Busby that they may not be getting paid at all!) Mr. Busby blamed, "someone in Bath St. ," for "making a mess of it. "

Although Mr. Busby feels that, "the scheme for deprived children," as he frenquently refered to it, was a success, he appears to be somewhat enbitter-ed, as he declared emphatically that, "this is the last thing I'll be doing for Castlemilk."

Before we left, we asked Mr. Busby for Mr. Easton's telephone no., in order to pursue the question of the finance of the project.

W570

All communications should be addressed to Divisional Education Officer

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — GLASGOW DIVISION

EDWARD MILLER, M.A., M.Ed.
Director of Education

J. T. BAIN, C.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., B.Ed., J.P.
Divisional Education Officer

In Reply Please Quote CES/WK/CM

Your Reference is .....

Date 14 September 1976

129 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW G2 2SY

Telephone: 041-221 9600 Ext. 3184

Mr Cooper
34 Raithburn Avenue
GLASGOW G45

Dear Mr Cooper

Further to our meeting on Thursday 9 September at Castlemilk Community Centre I have subsequently interviewed the 2 members of staff involved ie Mrs Irwin and Mr Busby regarding the alleged incident arising from the non-payment of wages to nursery school nurses during the summer play scheme.

After careful consideration it is the opinion of this Department that the matter was handled correctly and effectively by the staff at the Centre particularly Mrs Irwin who arranged with the Cash Section, Education Offices, 129 Bath Street for payment to be made available to the 2 ladies concerned.

No fault was attributable to this Department or the staff at Castlemilk Community Centre and as a result it is not intended to take any further action in this matter.

Yours sincerely

Walter Kerr

WALTER KERR
Assistant Community Education Adviser

8.11.76.

Dear Sir,

There has been growing concern in Castlemilk at the increasing number of visitors and members of the Community Centre who have been subjected to disgraceful behaviour by Mrs Irwin, an employee of the Education Department, at present working in the Castlemilk Community Centre. Moreover it has become clear that none of the complaints have been treated seriously either by Mrs Irwin's immediate superiors or by officials at a higher level.

We therefore demand:

a). That the Strathclyde Region Community Education Department set up a proper systenm of dealing with such complaints and give public information of the same.

b). Make speady use of this systenm to deal with the aforementioned complaints against Mrs Irwin.

John Cooper 3627 or 127
Carol Cooper 3626 or 126
Christine Macnay 3849
John McGuigan 38570.
J. Mc Laren 3851.
/ McGurk 3848 OR 68
Frank Chambers 3814 or 34
/ Brady CARDNO 5346 CC.348
Iris Macdonald. 538
6 Craig 3844 — CC NO. 349.
P. Pacitti 2262
/ Livingstone.
B Johnson 527
A. Bonner
A McCarthy 3862.
D Robertson 3861
E. Craig 3928. or 427
Anne M'Donald 428. or 3929
Roberta Kennedy
Margaret Logan.
Isabel Jenn 3863.
Peter Foster 275
A. Peake 3841.
Thomas Convey
Patricia McCarthy 3711
Brenda Brady.
I. Brady. 3522.
M. Peebles 3877.
I. McMahon 3985
27 Longridge

CONTINUED OVERLEAF/

Marion Quinn no. 271
Abbotsney. No 231.
J. Kennedy.
M. McLean.
K. Blain.
Anne McIntyre. No 3740
Mary Miller No. 417
J Barr No 4081
E. Harding No. 3834

R. Dollin No 3840
E O'Rourke No 4079.
S. Flanagan.
V. Humphy
P. Humphy
L McMahon
C N McKinnell
C. Henderson
M. O'Neil. 18

REPLIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO BE SENT TO :

CASTLEMILK TODAY	CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CENTRE.
WINDLAW JEELY PIECE CLUB	CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CENTRE.
F.S.U. PLAY-GROUP	CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CENTRE.
CASTLEMILK EAST PLAY-GROUP	CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CENTRE.

COPIES OF THIS LETTER HAVE BEEN SENT TO:

EDWARD MILLER,
25 BOTHWELL ST.,
GLASGOW.

J. T. BAIN,
DIVISIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER,
129 BATH ST.,
GLASGOW.

A. G. LOGGIE,
SENIOR COMMUNITY EDUCATION ADVISER,
129 BATH ST.,
GLASGOW.

Strathclyde Regional Council

Department of Education

Glasgow Division

COMMUNITY CENTRE

MEMBERSHIP CARD

1976-1977

3627

50p.

Name Mr J Cooper

Address 34 Raithburn Ave

No. 127

(1) WINDSOR JERRY PIECE CLUB.

On Tuesday, 4th May. Mr. Busby was asked by J.P.C. (Mary Miller) if 2 stencils could be run off in the Centre. These were in connection with the "Knock Out" heats we were doing for Civic Week. (A previous arrangement had been made that any work of the above nature requiring to be carried out in the interests of Civic Week, would be done by Centre.) Stencil 2 wasn't very urgent but stencil 1 was required for Sunday, 9th May.

Mr. Busby called Mrs. Irwin & explained the Situation, whereupon she said she couldn't give dates for Stencil 2 but Stencil 1 would certainly be ready for Thursday 6th May. It was arranged that J.P.C. (Irene McMahon) would collect them on this day.

Come Thursday situation was vastly altered. neither Mr. Busby nor Mrs. Irwin could be found in the centre during the day and nobody knew anything about any stencils for T.P.C. (The Stewards even searched the 2 offices for us). By Friday things were desperate. We could find no one of any help in the morning and come afternoon we 'phoned the centre. We were told quite bluntly by Mrs. Irwin that the stencils had not been run off and would not be run off (although reminded that she had promised it for that date). Irene M'Mahon could not manage down to centre in the afternoon so 'phoned Mary Miller who was nearest to see if anything could be gained by a personal visit.

(3)

Mary Miller went up to the centre & saw Mr. Busby. She asked for the stencil back so we could get it run privately & said she would like to complain that Mrs. Irwin had been unnecessarily rude to Mrs. McMahon, a JPC member. He replied, "Oh, the woman (Mrs. Irwin) is mentally ill," & he also blamed the delay in running the stencil on the trade union. Mrs. Miller said, "If she is mentally ill she should not be in charge of facilities needed by our community." Mr. Busby ignored the complaint (naturally his position was an embarrassing one).

WINDSCREEN TEDDY PIECE CLUB.

CASTLEMILK EAST PLAYGROUP.

A group of Mothers from Castlemilk East Playgroup and their toddlers were sitting in the bench at the back of the centre and two of the toddlers that were just starting to walk put their hands on Mrs Irvine's car she came and started shouting at us. She said she was sick of us people. As there were benchs there her car was not parked where it said staff

From the Mothers of Castlemilk E. Playgrou

Castlemilk F.S.U. Playgroup.

Mrs J. Carr.
5 Stravanan St.,
Castlemilk.

This letter is to forward an offical complaint against the ~~secretary~~ (Mrs. Irvine) who complains about, myself and my assistant. about our Playgroup, and the children in it. every day she has something to say, by way of complaints and nasty remarks. the mothers, also see reason to complains, as they seem satisfied that the children are being taken care of.

For such a person to work in a community centre I. see no point as, obviously, herself personally has no interest or concern for such a community.

Mrs Hart
Mrs Queen
Mrs Haughey
Ann Dunlop
A. Murphy
Rosina Dillon
A. Gale
D. Warnick

Margaret M Nair

Jean Carr.
Emily O'Rourke
Debby Dallas
Sandra Flanagan
Kathy Duffy
Pat Kinney
E. Holding
Lorette Elliott

(1)

FRANCIS BRADY
H/155 7 MITCHELLHILL RD
CASTLEMILK

Dear Sirs

I wish to make a complaint against the secretary of the Castlemilk Community Centre, My complaint refers to an incident in the Centre on Wednesday 13/10/76. Mrs Irwin, the secretary, approached me on entering into the Centre asking me if I was looking for anyone. I was in fact just in to collect my wife and child to go home. As I ~~shortly~~ already knew my wife was in the centre, I answered No to her question. I would like to point out that, not being a member, I did not ~~into~~ Know who Mrs Irwin was at the time in question. She then demanded that, if I was not a member of the Community Centre, then I should leave the premises at ~~once~~ once.

During the ensuing exchange of words, I questioned her authority on telling me to leave, and she answered, "IF YOU DO NOT LEAVE, I WILL GET SOMEONE TO MOVE YOU"
In no way did I provoke her into approaching me in the first place and was taken aback by her attitude and manner in which she spoke to me.
I am sure that this is not the way for a person with her responsibility to behave towards people in the Community Centre whether or not they are members.
I would also like to point out that, if the Community Centre is being run on a Club basis, then surely it must allow one non member in, accompanied with a member.

In making this complaint, I must question the ability of Mrs Irwin to carry out her duties in the running of the Community Centre

Signed Francis Brady

Dear Sir

I am a member of the Bamunty Centre I was in having my tea with my son I left his small bike inside while I was having my tea when mrs Irwin came in and asked who belong to it I said it was mine then in a nasty tone of voice told me to get it out I told her I was just finishing my tea when she started to shout at me and her cheek was a disgrace I was very embarrassed at time There was

something done about her
as a few of my friends
has left through her
a cheeky manner.

yours Sincerly

A Langridge

Interveiw with Mrs. Irwin (Sect. Castlemilk Community Centre) Wed. 18 Aug. 1976. Present: Mrs O'Neil, Mrs. McMahon, Mrs. P. McCarthy, Mr & Mrs. J. Cooper.

Mrs. O'Neil & Mrs. McMahon had asked us along, purely as friends, to accompany them on a visit to the Community Centre. The reason for this was that they had some difficulty regarding non-payment of wages, during two weeks when they had worked in the Community Centre Play-Scheme. As the Play-Sheme was now finished by a week, they were naturaly concerned about this non-payment of a fortnights wages. During there period of work at the Play-Scheme, it was becoming apparent that there was some difficulty regarding there wages. They approached Mr. Busby about the delay, but Mr. Busby's varied explainations were most unsatisfactory, and he was unable to resolve the difficulty. The ladies, appreciated the added difficulty Mr. Busby was under, with the distractions of the day-to-day workings of the Community Centre and felt it might be better therefore if they called to see him during the lunch hour, when the activities at the Centre temporaraly ceased, in order that he might not be distracted.
When we called, we learned that Mr. Busby was not on duty. The ladies therefore directed their enquiries to Mrs, Irwin, as we were sure that arrangements could be made for the wages to be paid, if the necessary information was conveyed from the Community Centre to the relevent dept.
Mrs. Irwin did not seem to understand the ladies concern, that they had not yet received their wages,-adding unnecessaraly, that she had also had similar experiances,- which did not bother her. She also offered a complet -ly unasked for, piece of advice, that the ladies "should have gone to thei Union about this, at the time, anyway". Prior to this Mrs. Irwin had tried to order us (Mrs. P. McCarthy & MR. Mrs. J. Cooper) out, saying that she did not feel that our presents was necessary, inspite of the fact that Mrs. O'Neil & Mrs. McMahon had aleady explained that they had asked us to accompany them. Her behaviour throughout had been disgraceful and at this point the ladies had to remined her that it would be their decision whether we should be there, and not Mrs. Irwin's. When reluctantly after this, Mrs. Irwin started to 'phone, she had obviously agitated herself, with her unreasonable and uncivil behaviour. During her enquires, - to several Wrong dept., - she informed the recipient that "she had the deligation, in at the moment", as part of her conversation. When she finaly did get directe on to the right dept., (Finance) she learned that the ladies could collect their wages at Bath Street that afternoon. When Mrs. Irwin was stll in contacted with the Finance dept, we asked her please to enquire regarding the travelling expenses which the ladies would necessaraly incurr. Mrs. Irwin indignantly and irrationally refused to do so, and finished her 'phon conversation and quikely hung up (this necessitated us re-calling the Finance dept. again from the public 'phone in the Community Centre, we

cont./

made arrangements for the re-imbursement of travelling expenses with out difficulty.)

After Mrs. Irwin had made the call, she tried to herd us out of the office. We had started to tell her how disgraceful her whole attitude had been, but she was so unwilling to hear this that she attempted to shut the door before we were completely out, catching Mr. Cooper's foot between the door and the jamb, and only desisted this, when requested in an ~~evious~~ manner which highlighted her incivility.

V. Cooper.
C. Cooper
T McCarthy
C McMahon.
M. O'Neil.

Interveiw with Mr. Busby, (Temporary Warden) and Ann Davidson (Asst. Warden) at the Castlemilk Community Centre, on Thurs. 19th Aug. 1976. Mr. & Mrs. J. Cooper and Pat McCarthy.

We had asked for the interveiw with Mr. Busby in order to report an incident regarding Mrs. Irwin (Sect. at Castlemilk Community Centre).

The interweiw took place in the public lobby, outside the sect. & Wardens offices.

When we started to explain to Mr. Busby that we had a complaint reg. Mrs. Irwin, Mr. Busby told us that "He was not interested, & that we should report the matter to Mr. Brown." (Comm. Ed.,)
Although we persisted, as it is obvious that as Mrs. Irwin's superior, Mr. Busby is obliged to investigate any complaints regarding her, he refused to hear our complain. At one point he stated "That he was standing by his s staff". When we asked him what he meant, he said "That he was satisfied that Mrs. Irwin had coped with the situation satisfactorily in his absense. We pointed out that he had only heard one side of the story, and that until he had heard ours he couldn't know the full facts, and therefore form any resonable opinion of the matter.
Mr. Busby however, merely reiterated his advice that we should report the ma matter to Mr. Brown.
The Asst., Warden, Ann Davidson seemed to see the logic of our appeal and stated that she would like to know the details of our complaint.
The possibility of our rendering a detailed explaination of our complaint however was made hopeless, by Mr. Busby's interupting here and there with his obbervations and comments. (Despite his previous remarks about not being interested in our complaint.)
We therefore abandoned our efforts to state our complaint at this level, & are forced to take Mr. Busby's advice and take the matter futher.

J. Cooper
C. Cooper
P. McCarthy

1 COPY TO MR A G LOGGIE
1 " " DIR. OF EDUCATION.

34 Eastbourne Ave.
Eastfield.
Glasgow G45.

23.9.77.

Dear Sir,

I would like to make a formal complaint regarding the behaviour of Mr y Alzalon, Area Organiser in the Community Education Service

During the evening of Wed. 7th Sept; I + four other Centre members were having tea at a table in the Community Centre canteen when we were approached by Mr Alzalon. He asked us to vacate the table as the Sequence Dance Club would be having their break shortly. We explained that unfortunately we could not comply as we were still at our tea. Mr Alzalon obviously found this unacceptable as he returned a few minutes later + repeated his request. Again we explained that regretfully we could not comply + reminded Mr Alzalon that as members of the Centre we were entitled to the use of the canteen facilities. At this point he became enraged + grabbed me by the back of the neck + attempted to force me from my chair. I retained my anger at this attack + pointed out to Mr Alzalon that his actions constituted assault.

Shortly after, I + the people who had been at the table + who had witnessed this, went to the police station + reported the incident, Since then, I understand that because of his actions, Mr Alzalon has been given an official police warning.

As I explained to the police, this is not the first time Mr Alzalon has used force with Community Centre members. On a previous occasion he grabbed me by the arm + only desisted when I warned him of the forthcoming of his action. A minute or so later however, he attempted to remove a woman from her chair by pulling her by

the arm. The lady had only recently left hospital after a serious + traumatic operation. The results of Mr Absalom's actions could have been far reaching, but on that occasion the lady + I were prepared to overlook this incident as being a temporary loss of temper on Mr Absalom's part. There are witnesses to these incidents also who were quite prepared to take matters further, but who respected our wish at the time to overlook the matter.

This would appear to have been a miscalculation on our part, as Mr Absalom has obviously not succeeded in curbing a tendancy to resort to violence, in situations in which others can content themselves with words.

I feel incidents of the type I describe can no longer be ignored as Mr Absalom's behaviour in certain situations is obviously unpredictable.

I hope that in bringing this matter to your attention steps will be taken to ensure that Mr Absalom's behaviour is more stable in future.

Please find enclosed witnesses account of the incident.

Yours Faithfully,

John Cogier.

1 COPY TO MR AGLOGEIR
1 " " DIR OF EDUCATION

190 Croftfoot Road,
Glasgow, G45 9HH

23/9/77

Mr Logie,

Dear Sir,

I would like to draw your attention to an incident that took place on Wednesday, 7th September, 1977, when four members of the Community Centre were enjoying a cup of tea in the Canteen. Mr. Absolom, Area Organiser, approached their table and ordered them to hurry and vacate the table, as the Sequence Dance Club required it. The company at the table refused to move until they had finished their tea.

Mr. Absolom at this point became enraged, and grabbed Mr. John Cooper by the neck with considerable force. A less even-tempered man than Mr. Cooper could have caused quite a scene, but he behaved in an exemplary manner, and after finishing our tea we left the table and accompanied Mr Cooper to the police station, where he reported the incident.

I was very shocked at the behaviour of Mr. Absolom who holds such an important position.

Below are the signatures of the others at the table.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Purdie
R. Paterson.
N Blackwood
P. Logie

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION—GLASGOW DIVISION
129 BATH STREET

Glasgow, 4th Oct. 1977.

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your communication of the 23rd Sept.

which shall receive attention.

J. H. Bain

DIVISIONAL EDUCATION OFFICER

per

Castlemilk CC.

W6205A

W570

All communications should be addressed to Divisional Education Officer

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — GLASGOW DIVISION

EDWARD MILLER, M.A., M.Ed.
Director of Education
J P CRANSTON MA BA MEd
~~J. T. BAIN, C.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., B.Ed., J.P.~~
Divisional Education Officer

In Reply Please Quote PKC/DS/CE29

Your Reference is .....

Date 30 September 1977

129 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW G2 2SY
Telephone: 041-~~221 9600~~ 204 2900 Ext. 2612

Mr John Cooper
34 Raithburn Avenue
Castlemilk
GLASGOW G45

Dear Mr Cooper

CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTRE

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 23 September 1977 and I have noted its contents. I shall investigate the matter in the proper manner.

Yours sincerely

P. Kenneth Corsar.

P K CORSAR
Education Officer

W570

All communications should be addressed to Divisional Education Officer

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — GLASGOW DIVISION

EDWARD MILLER, M.A., M.Ed.
Director of Education
J P CRANSTON MA BA MEd
~~J. T. BAIN, C.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., B.Ed., J.P.~~
Divisional Education Officer

In Reply Please Quote PKC/DS/CE29

Your Reference is .....

Date 12 October 1977

129 BATH STREET
GLASGOW, G2 2SY

Telephone: 041 ~~221 9600~~ 204 2900 Ext. 2612

Mr John Cooper
34 Raithburn Avenue
GLASGOW G45

Dear Mr Cooper

CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CENTRE

I refer to our previous correspondence concerning the complaint which you wished to make about Mr G Absolom, Area Organiser. I have discussed the incident fully with Mr Absolom and the issue has been duly noted. I very much regret that it was necessary for you to write in the first place and I would hope that no such occurence will happen again.

Yours sincerely

P. Kenneth Corsar

P K CORSAR
Education Officer

2nd May, 1978

Miss E. Banks, Warden
Castlemilk Community Centre
Castlemilk Drive
Glasgow G 45

Dear Miss Banks,

As members of the Community Centre, we are concerned because it has recently come increasingly to our notice that you have been overstepping your proper authority as Warden.

Matters have now come to a head in your action taken in banning two members, Miss Moira Moore and Miss Christine Forbes, from the Centre. It is NOT our argument that these girls were innocent of the charges made against them, nor are we arguing with your right as Warden to suspend their membership pending a meeting of the Advisory Committee. Our argument is simply that at the meeting of the Advisory immediately after the banning of these girls, not only did you omit to mention the fact and ask for the Committee's ruling, but the two girls who had appeared at the Community Centre door in order to present their case at the Advisory were not allowed to enter.

Later the aforementioned girls entered the Community Centre to discuss their grievances with other Centre members. On hearing of this, you summoned a Police sergeant and a discussion took place between these Centre members, the two girls, yourself and the Police sergeant. As a result of this meeting, you called together a group of Centre members, presumably of your own choosing, calling it a 'Working Party of the Advisory', and sent a letter to Mr. J. Cooper saying that this Working Party was suspending him until the next Advisory meeting in June. In fact, as no such Working Party has ever been elected by the current Advisory Committee, no group of members can come together and take the powers of the Advisory upon themselves. Our argument here does not concern the rightness of your decision to suspend Mr. Cooper. Our argument is solely that in calling an ad hoc meeting of some Centre members and pretending that it was a special meeting of an Advisory Working Party with power to suspend members, you were exceeding your authority.

Further to these two cases of suspension, it has come to our notice that teenagers between 16 and 18 have not always been accorded their rights as full adult members of the Centre, it being argued that until they are 18, after 7.30 in the evening they can only use the Community Centre if they are with a Club or group. Here again, we feel the Centre officials have exceeded their authority.

Because of these actions, we are asking:

1. That Moira Moore (70 Holmbyre Road) and Christine Forbes (86 Holmbyre Road) be informed by letter that their case will come before the Advisory Committee in June and that until then their ban is suspended;

2. That Mr. John Cooper be informed by letter that his case will come before the Advisory in June and that until then his suspension by the 'Working Party' is lifted;

3. That we should be assured that in all future cases of suspension by the Warden, those suspended will be told that their case will be brought up at the next Advisory and that they will have the right to speak on their own behalf at that

meeting;

4. That we should be assured that all Centre members over the age of 16 will be accorded their full rights as Adult Members, for which they have paid, regardless of whether they are in a Club or group.

As members of the Centre, we support the principle that the rules of the Centre should be adhered to at all times. To make sense, this principle must also apply to the staff.

Yours faithfully,

Mary Miller, 103 Castlemilk Drive (CC No. 113)
Philip Goldie, 2 Dunoon Rd (C.C. No 56)
Anne McDonald, 318 Allison St (C.C. No. 577)
Irene McMahon 9 Mosscraig Rd (C.C. No 7145)
D. McSpirin 660.
P McGregor 109 castlemilk Drive
E McKenzie 7512
John Soddie 3 Madrine St
Colin McCheadine 47 castlemilk Drive
Archie Durie 57 Barlia Drive.
John Tees 11 Barlia Drive Castlemilk
Anne Kelly 29 Arnprior Rd castlemilk
Lynne Murphy 31 Arnprior Rd C/Milk
Stephen Kane 60 Glenacre dr.

Danny Mc Kenna 21 Rushfirst Quad, Castlemilk.
Jean Devlin 31 Ardencraig Drive.
Isobel Daly c/o Devlin 31 Ardencraig DR. c/o
Patricia Parker, 12, Ardencraig Quad
J. Devlin 31 Ardencraig DR
E. Livingstone 467 Castlemilk Rd
C. Cocker 34 Rathburn Ave 6721
R. Paterson 51 ARNPRIOR RD 108

P.T.O.

We the undersigned are the elected representatives of our respective clubs, and are also members of the Advisory Committee of Castlemilk Community Centre.
We wish to condemn the action of the Warden, Miss Banks, in calling together what she has called a "working party of the Advisory Committee" on the 27th April 1978.
This"working party" does not in fact draw any authority from the Advisory Committee. Any conclusions it had reached are therefore illegitimate. Also despite the fact that we are Advisory Committee members, we were not approached regarding the "working party."
The Education Department has already agreed that the Warden had broken the correct procedure in the case of the suspension from membership of :

Miss Moira Moore.
Miss Christine Forbes.
Mr. John Cooper.

Despite this admission, they have however refused to recind these suspensions. In view of this admission of incorrect, and indeed unconstitutional procedure, we, as members of the Advisory Committee demand that these suspensions be rescinded without any futher delay.

NAME	GROUP OR CLUB
D. McMahon	Windlaw Jeely Piece Clubs
R. Paterson	"CASTLEMILK TODAY"
J McKay	Castlemilk C.U.
Mary Miller	Cwill East Playgroup
P Gobbie	Sunshine Club.
Ed Graham "Community Council Rep."	101/5 M/Hill Rd
M. McGurk.	"REVIVAL THEATRE COMPANY"
M Hughes	ONE TO ONE GROUP
H-Taylor	Darts club

Scottish Council For Civil Liberties

SCCL
146 Holland Street
Glasgow G2 4NG
Tel: 041 332 5960

May 5th 1978

The Warden
Castlemilk Community Centre
Castlemilk Drive
Castlemilk
Glasgow G/5

Dear Miss Banks,

Recent exclusions: general disciplinary procedure

We have recently been approached by members of the centre about the above. The account of recent exclusions which has been given to us would, if accurate, represent a constitutional outrage.

It might help a resolution of the affair, and would oblige us, if you could give us an account of the procedures which are followed in determining exclusions, and of the criteria on which decisions are made, pending proper determinations by your advisory committee.

We have, in the meantime, hesitated to recommend any legal or other action, since we trust that good sense applied to achieving some constitutional propriety can bring a satisfactory resolution of the ill-feeling and sense of injustice which evidently exists.

Yours faithfully,

David Godwin
(Executive member)

cc. A.G. Loggie, Community Education Dept.
Convenor, Education Committee.

From Edward Taylor MA MP

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th May 1978

J Cooper Esq
34 Raithburn Avenue
Glasgow G45

Dear Mr Cooper

I was glad to have a chat with you and Mr Andrew Parker in the Rooms today and send this short note just to confirm that I have written to the Secretary of State about the possibility of the Local Government Ombudsman inquiring into the matter we discussed and I have also written, of course, to the Warden.

I do hope that this will help to resolve the problem and I am only sorry to hear that there is some difficulty in the Community Centre which has been so successful.

I will be in touch with you again.

Yours sincerely

Edward Taylor

PS I am sorry that as I am just leaving for London I shall not be able to sign this letter personally.

From: Teddy Taylor, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

19th May, 1978.

Dear Mr. Cooper,

Further to our recent discussion about the problem at the Community Centre with the two young members, I have received a report from the Department.

It appears that the suspension was upheld by the Depute Director of Education, although there is a right of appeal. I understand that this is likely to come up at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on 5th June.

Hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Teddy Taylor
p.p. RDC.

Dictated by Mr. Taylor & signed in his absence.

J. Cooper, Esq.,
34, Raithburn Avenue,
Glasgow G.45.

P.S. I still await a reply from the Secretary of State.

From: Teddy Taylor, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

26th May, 1978.

Dear Mr. Cooper,

I thought I should let you see the enclosed reply from the Secretary of State for Scotland about the Local Authority Ombudsman.

You will see the Secretary of State cannot give a definite view of whether matters arising out of the management of a Community Centre could be considered by the Ombudsman, but I hope you will find his reply helpful.

Naturally I would be much happier if the matter might be resolved locally as an outside investigation could undermine the successful work of the Centre.

Yours sincerely,

pp Teddy Taylor RDC.

Dictated by Mr. Taylor & signed in his absence.

J. Cooper, Esq.,
34, Raithburn Avenue,
Glasgow G.45.

SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

Edward Taylor Esq MA MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A OAA

23 May 1978

Dear Teddy.

Thank you for your letter of 6 May about the inquiry you have had from your constituents Mr J Cooper of Raithburn Avenue and Mr A Parker of Ardencraig Quadrant, as to whether the manner in which matters of discipline are dealt with in the Community Centre in Castlemilk would be a suitable matter for investigation by the Commissioner for Local Administration.

I am afraid that I cannot give any view on this matter as it is entirely for the Commissioner himself to determine whether any complaint submitted to him is suitable for investigation. The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975, under which the Commissioner carries out his investigations, lists certain areas which are not subject to his investigation but it is for the Commissioner himself to consider these statutory limitations in relation to the details of any complaint he receives.

I would suggest therefore that, in the first instance, your constituents approach one of their local councillors and ask him to forward their complaint to the Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

Bruce Millan

Ross Harper & Murphy

SOLICITORS AND NOTARIES

J. R. HARPER
T. A. GRIEVE
P. I. McKAY
B. BONNAR
I. McCLUSKEY
J. K. MITCHELL
D. H. PIRRETT

G. E. STODDART
D. C. DEWAR
W. P. WOOD
D. G. HOGG
J. A. HERALD
J. C. SWEENEY
M. F. HENEGHAN

Consultant: R. TURPIE

Our ref. EBC/IM

Your ref.

IF TELEPHONING, PLEASE ASK FOR Mr. Campbell

TELEPHONE: 041 - 634 0457

2 Castlemilk Arcade, Castlemilk, Glasgow. G45 9AA

John Cooper, Esq.,
34 Raithburn Avenue,
Glasgow, G45.

2nd June, 1978.

Dear Sir,

We enclose herewith copy letter addressed to the Warden at the Community Centre, and the subsequent reply, which, unfortunately does not answer the specific points raised in our letter. Regretfully, time does not allow us to correspond with the Warden before 5th June, and you may wishto make an appointment with us after the date to discuss your case.

Yours faithfully,

570

All communications should be addressed to Divisional Education Officer

STRATHCLYDE REGIONAL COUNCIL

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION — GLASGOW DIVISION

EDWARD MILLER, M.A., M.Ed.
Director of Education
J P CRANSTON MA BA MEd
~~J. T. BAIN, C.B.E., M.A., B.Sc., B.Ed., J.P.~~
Divisional Education Officer

In Reply Please Quote CC/EB/JM

Your Reference is .....

Date 31 May 1978

129 BATH STREET,
GLASGOW G2 2SY

Telephone: ~~041-221-9600~~ Ext.....
041-634 2233

Messrs Ross Harper & Murphy
Solicitors and Notaries
2 Castlemilk Arcade
GLASGOW G45

Dear Sirs

JOHN COOPER, 34 RAITHBURN AVENUE, G45

Thank you for your letter of 17 May 1978.

The decision to suspend Mr Cooper was taken by me in my capacity as Warden of the Castlemilk Community Centre.

Since I was only recently appointed to the Castlemilk Community Centre I sought advice from a small representative group within the Centre before coming to a decision.

I did not take this decision lightly and I shall be reporting the facts to the meeting of the Advisory Committee on 5 June 1978 who will decide whether or not the suspension was justified.

The question of the suspension of the 2 girls will also be considered at the meeting of the Advisory Committee on 5 June 1978.

Yours faithfully

E BANKS
Warden

EBC/IM

Mr. Campbell

Castlemilk Community Centre
121 Castlemilk Drive
Glasgow G45 9UG

17th May, 1978

For the Attention of Miss E. Banks, Warden.

Dear Sirs

John Cooper, 34 Raithburn Avenue, Glasgow G45.

We act on behalf of the above, and your letter of 27th April, 1978 addresses to our client has been passed to us for attention. Our client will be appearing before the Advisory C mittee on 5th June, 1978, and we shall be grateful if you will answer the following points before that date.

You refer to a "working party of the Advisory Committee"in your letter, and we cannot find any reference to this committee in the Constitution. Accordingly, can such group legitimately decide on interim matters relating to suspension of members.

Secondly, we note your comment in relation to our client's alleged "disrespectful behaviour" We note from the membership card that a warden may suspend a member for misconduct, and we wonder if you regard the two words as synonymous, and more particularly, if a member can indeed be suspended on the grounds of "disrespectful behaviour."

Thirdly, we note that our client has been given the opportunity to state his case before the advisory committee. We understand that a similar invitation was not extended to members of the Community Centre who have recently been suspended. Apparently on arrival at the Community Cwntre on the evening of the meeting of the Advisory Committee, subsequent to their interim suspension, access to the building was refused, andthe girls were unable to have their case heard, and to state their owncase. It would appear that this practise was at the least, contrary to the rules of natural justice, and our client feels that the same pr dure should be available to all.

Perhaps you would be good enough to answer the above points in order that we may take our client's instructions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully

CONFIDENTIAL

Report and recommendation on Castlemilk Community Education Centre

J.E. Hill, Education Officer,
Dunbarton Division

July 1978

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Enquiry Procedure

It was established that eight representatives of members and groups within the centre would meet with Mr. J.E. Hill, Education Officer, to discuss the current situation. At the first meeting it was agreed that those present would advance as far as possible corporate rather than individual views and would prepare a written statement on the problems and solutions for the next meeting taking the opportunity to check with members of the centre to maintain the representative character of any submissions. In the meantime it was agreed that the status quo would be maintained and that all concerned would endeavour to improve relationships within the centre. At the conclusion of the second meeting Mr. Hill indicated that he would prepare a paper for Mr. Bain, Depute Director of Education, recommending action which could be taken immediately and issues which should be examined in the longer term. Mr. Hill also undertook to keep members of the group informed.

2.2 Historical Background

Two general developments are of significance in relation to the problems which have arisen. The most important of these has been the initially separate development of youth and community facilities which came together to form youth and community departments now part of the service provided by Community Education. The degree of assimilation and reorientation varies considerably with the consequent confusion of philosophy, policy and roles at field level. This problem has been to some extent compounded by the relatively recent reorganisation of local government and the developing roles and emphasis particularly within the Departments of Education, Social Work and Police and District Housing Departments.

Castlemilk Community Education Centre has been operating with considerable success for the past ten years and given the fundamental changes outlined above this success is in part the source of current difficulties particularly in relation to the place of youth and the community in Community Education Centres and the management system for the area and the centre.

2.3 Management

The professional management system is based on line management rather than area teams and recent staff shortages including the phasing out of play park leaders have exacerbated the tendency for staff to be relatively isolated in this system. The system also militates against a co-ordinated response to needs and demands throughout the area with one official currently responsible for a population of 76,000. Within the centre, partly due to the mobility of professional staff, there is a tendency for APTC staff and manual workers and the Advisory Committee to develop their role contrary to the guidelines issued. Power and ultimate responsibility become divorced expedient and pragmatic solutions to particular problems become guidelines which in turn become "clauses within the constitution". While there is no agreed solution to these fundamental problems and their symptoms there is a general appreciation of the need to adjust the existing system to new developments but apparently an inability to agree on how to manage the critical and difficult transitional stage.

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3. CURRENT DIFFICULTIES

3.1 The basic problem lies in a division of opinion between those who see the continued success of the centre as being dependent on maintaining previous traditions and those who think the same end can only be achieved by means of responding to and stimulating community needs.

3.2 There is considerable confusion regarding the philosphy, policy, guidelines and discretion relating to the provision of the service in Castlemilk Community Education Centre and the community generally. As a result difficulties are created where they should not exist and relatively minor matters become issues of principle.

3.3 This confusion leads to a situation where all concerned think in terms of rules and regulations and how to enforce or circumvent them depending on individual points of view. In the process unhelpful attitudes thrive and relationships become embittered, a situation deplored by all members of the centre and the Advisory Committee.

3.4 Attempts to clarify the position and ensure equitable treatment have tended to create a formalised system of lets which militates against early recognition of developments and encourages the allocation of accommodation on the basis of past practice rather than need.

3.5 A compounding factor is the difficulty under the present system of co-ordinating requests for accommodation on an area basis taking into account all the facilities available.

3.6 In addition the facilities available are inadequate - a general problem - and the level of demand is high - in itself a healthy sign in Castlemilk.

3.7 Problems have been developing over the last few years and in a situation where all concerned appear to value the centre and the service but cannot agree on the philosphy and management an element of personality conflict has been a contributory factor in the current difficulties.

3.8 For a variety of reasons successive wardens have been relatively isolated and have inherited problems which, until recent times, they have been able to contain but unable to solve. In this situation there is a natural tendency to rely on past practice and the established groups within the centre encouraging an insular attitude and a not entirely unjustifiable "siege mentality".

5. CONCLUSIONS

Given the reasons for setting up the enquiry and the procedure adopted the tenor of this report is essentially critical taking little account of the excellent service which the staff and the centre have provided over a number of years. The level and quality of provision remain high and is valued by all groups and members using the facilities. The difficulties which have been overcome to achieve this situation must have been considerable although they do not feature in this report. The conclusions and recommendations should be seen against this background.

5.1 There is a generally inadequate understanding of the philosophy, policy - and the limitations - of the Community Education Service despite the detailed guidelines issued resulting in the following symptoms:-

a. a failure in the essential two-way communication system within the Centre causing a gulf of misunderstanding,

b. a confusion of roles involving the warden and the advisory group, the staff (Professional, APT & C & Manual Workers) and groups and individual members,

c. an inward looking, restrictive regime based on passed - albeit highly successful - practice.

5.2 The Warden is relatively isolated in a line management system, particularly in the absence of an assistant.

5.3 The existing facilities and the systems for maximising use are unable to meet the established and developing needs.

5.4 Despite the division of opinion and recent difficulties there is considerable goodwill and agreement on a number of necessary changes. A progressive elimination of relatively minor points at issue will produce a marked improvement in the atmosphere of the Centre and the relationships within it which would make a significant contribution to the resolution of more fundamental problems.

5.5 The enquiry has related almost exclusively to Castlemilk Community Education Centre and recent difficulties but in the final analysis the validity of conclusions and recommendations will need to be viewed in a wider context.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

To initiate the process of improving attitudes and relationships within the Centre and with the Community the following action should be taken prior to the start of session 1978/79, or as soon as possible thereafter.

6.1 Toilets and public telephones should be available to the public.

6.2 The service provided by the Canteen should be regulated by demand from the Community.

6.3 Wider participation in activities should be encouraged by allowing prams and children into the Centre more freely.

6.4 Rules and Regulations should be reduced to the absolute minimum necessary to ensure a high standard of service and should be reviewed in due course.

6.5 Copies of current policy documents and guidelines, dated and authenticated, should be provided for all members of the Advisory Committee and made available to all members of the Centre for inspection.

6.6 Consideration should be given to the information service and publicity within the Centre and the Community to ensure a wide dissemination of information.

6.7 The application of the existing letting policy of the authority and the letting procedure within the Centre should be reviewed to ensure that allocations meet the needs of affiliated groups, voluntary organisation and the community generally.

6.8 The role and powers of the Advisory Committee should be established and agreed and the procedure for interim improvements pending a Regional or Divisional Policy on Centre Management Committees approved.

6.9 The role of full time staff, particularly the warden, but including divisional and area support staff, APT & C Staff, and Manual Workers should be clarified on the basis of previous guidelines where these exist.

6.10 A suitable activity which would bring together the groups and individual members in planning and participation should be encouraged e.g. a Christmas event.

In the longer term the following action is recommended.

6.11 A constitution should be prepared which balances the interest of users as individuals and as members of groups, the community and the staff within the policy of the authority and any appropriate divisional guidelines. Particular attention should be given to the possibility of combining direct and indirect election, membership criteria and age limits.

6.12 The effectiveness, and public awareness of the letting system for the area should be reviewed.

6.13 The induction, in-service training and support systems for staff should be reviewed.

6.14 The delivery of the service should be examined to increase wherever possible the level of decentralisation and devolution throughout the existing system.

6.15 Consideration should be given to the most appropriate system of liaison and co-ordination of services provided in the area by local authority departments.

The willingness of all concerned to participate fully and frankly in the enquiry should be noted.

James Elliot Hill.

Director: Edward Miller MA(Hons) MEd(Hons)

Dunbarton Division
Regional Offices
Crosslet Dumbarton

Divisional Education Officer
J Murray Allan MA MEd

Strathclyde Regional Council

Tel Dumbarton 65151

Our ref

Your ref

If phoning or calling ask for Mr. Hill

Date 3rd August, 1978.

Mr. John Cooper,
c/o Castlemilk C.E. Centre,
Castlemilk Drive,
GLASGOW.

Dear Mr. Cooper,

I have now submitted my report on Castlemilk Community Education Centre to Mr. G.S.H. Bain, Depute Director of Education.

I would wish to take the opportunity of thanking you for your courtesy and assistance to me and of wishing you and the Centre the best for the future.

Yours sincerely,

James Elliot Hill

Education Officer.

JEH/JD

Department of Education
Director : Edward Miller MA(Hons) MEd(Hons)

Glasgow Division
129 Bath Street
Glasgow G2 2SY

Divisional Education Officer
J P Cranston MA BA MEd

Strathclyde Regional Council

Tel 041-204 2900 Ext 2688

Mr G Cooper
34 Raithburn Avenue
Glasgow G45

Our ref CES/JJ/CSM

Your ref

If phoning or calling ask for Mr Johnston

Date 23 May 1979

Dear Mr Cooper

CASTLEMILK COMMUNITY CENTRE

I refer to your recent telephone call to Mr William Gray, Education Officer requesting a copy of the following:-

a. Minute of a meeting of the Castlemilk Community Centre Advisory Committee held on Monday 27 November 1978.

b. Minute of the special general meeting of Castlemilk Community Centre to review the constitution held on 2 April 1979.

Please find enclosed a copy of 'a' above as requested.

Minute 'b' has still to be circulated to the members of the Advisory Committee therefore I have made arrangements for a copy to be sent to you as soon as it becomes available. It is likely to be available within the next 7 to 10 days time.

Yours sincerely

JOHN JOHNSTON
Senior Assistant Community Education Adviser

34 Raithburn Ave.,
Castlemilk,
Glasgow G45.

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Dear Mr. Miller,

As arranged at an earlier date we enclose accounts of our critisms of Castlemilk Community Centre situation.

We have attempted to provide you with the viewpoints of various groups and individuals who are frustrated with the opposition to progessive change in the centre.

We respectfully request that you arrange the meeting we spoke of when we last met - with the slight change that you allow eight representatives from each side. We would also request that the meeting be held at your premises.

We would be grateful if this could be arranged as soon as possible in an attempt to resolve the situation before the beginning of the new season.

Yours Faithfully,

John Cooper

On behalf of members and groups in the Centre.

WINDLAW JEELY PIECE CLUB

c/o Sutherland
32 Holmbyre Road
Castlemilk
Glasgow G45

26th May, 1979

Dear Mr. Miller,

We understand that you have again asked for descriptions of the situation in Castlemilk Community Centre.

From our Club's point of view there is not really much to add, since unfortunately nothing has changed since a year ago.

Children are still not allowed in after 5 p.m. unless in a Club, which means that at our meetings in a tiny room we have to have the little ones with us -- they are not allowed to sit in the canteen or watch TV. This naturally puts a lot of women off coming, and stretches everyone's nerves to breaking point.

We had the highest hopes of the new constitution, which would have made us safe as a Centre Club by removing the requirement that Clubs must lodge all their money apart from £2 in the General Fund of the Centre. It would also have made sure decisions were made in future by a cross-section of the community. However, this constitution was dismissed without discussion, an outcome which the officials locally could certainly have prevented if they had had a will to.

Our priority is to concentrate on providing what we can for the kids, and this goes on. But it is an uphill task, and the Community Centre isn't helping!

We are grateful for your continuing interest in the situation. Of course change is not easy, but if you can do anything to make life better for the kids, and for those like purselves who want a wider range of people to have some say in how our few facilities are used, we shall do everything we can to make it go smoothly.

Yours sincerely,

A. McDonald

Mrs. Anne McDonald
for all the Mothers of Windlaw Jeely Piece Club

Dear Mr Miller,

we are writing to inform you about the diabolical situation in the Castlemilk Community Centre. The Warden there as you know is one Mrs Swinton, who we believe is incapable of running a raffle let alone a whole Community Centre. One incident in particular, which we as mothers found horrifying, was at the Disco Dancing competition during Castlemilk Fair week. The Warden had a Mr Philip Goldie ejected from the main hall by two policemen, in front of a great many children.

This young man does much for the children in Castlemilk, one of his attributes is "The Saturday club" which runs in the Social Work Department.

He done something wrong in the Warden,s eyes, that is, he agreed to help someone. This is something alien to her own behavior.

We are a completely new club and the atmosphere we have experienced is not very encouraging. Their Advisory meetings are something of a shambles. On Thursday 31st May, the boy that Mr Goldie agreed to help was asked to appear in front of the committee. He had his suspension lifted after the charges against him were found not proven If at the time the police had been brought in, then Mr Goldie would not have beem suspended in the first place. It was asked that his suspension be lifted, nobody would listen.

When the first case was dropped there should have been no need for Mr Goldie to appear, as obviously he had been right in the first place.

We ask that you look into this and personally see that his suspension is lifted forthwith.

Decisions are taken at the Advisory and thats the last you hear of them. It,s time something was done to remove the lady with the perfectly apt title of "Warden". She is unable to cope with situations in a reasonable manner.

This may sound harsh but the situation is absolutely ludicrous and desperately needs changing.

Yours sincerely

(Mrs Lees)
for members of
Arnprior Jeely Piece Club

Strathclyde Regional Council

Department of Education

Glasgow Division

COMMUNITY CENTRE

MEMBERSHIP CARD

1975-1976 21023

25p.

Name John Cooper,

Address 34 Raithburn Ave,
Castlemilk

C.C. No. —

34 Raithburn Avenue
Glasgow G45

5th June, 1979

Dear Mr. Miller,

I would like to bring to your attention a situation in Castlemilk Community Centre.

On Monday, 14th May, I received a phone call from a friend of mine, Mr. Philip Goldie, who told me that he had been suspended from the Community Centre. I asked him if he could meet me to discuss what had happened.

When I met Mr. Goldie he explained that another member of the Centre had been accused of breaking a window. The Warden had refused to hear the boy's side of this affair, even though he had a card explaining that at the time of the incident he was at a hospital, and she had suspended him. Because the Warden would not hear his case, he wanted Mr. Goldie to come and explain these facts to the Warden. Mr. Goldie agreed.

Mrs. Swinton invited Mr. Goldie and the boy into the office, and then asked the boy to leave. When Mr. Goldie protested she then asked him to leave also. Mr. Goldie refused, and said that he had been asked by the boy to explain his innocence. Mrs. Swinton then left the office and returned with two stewards and three members of the Dancing Club. After a heated argument, Mr. Goldie left. When he returned that night he was told by a steward he had been suspended.

After hearing this I said that we should check if this was the case. We both went to the Warden's office but she was not in.

On Sunday, 20th May, myself, Mr. Goldie and a class of young children whom we teach arrived to

participate in the Disco Dancing Championships in the Community Centre. We had all been entered and accepted for the competition. When we went up to the office to register the kids Mr. Goldie was handed a letter which said he was suspended. This was the first official notification of Mr. Goldie's suspension. The Warden had been telling him that a letter had been posted to him. On previous occasions she had ensured members received notification of suspension by the use of registered post.

We felt this was disgraceful and made it clear we were taking the children into the hall. The Warden asked me to wait, and then told Mr. Goldie to leave. I pointed out that Mr. Goldie, myself and the children were all entered in the competition and that Mr. Goldie had joint responsibility for their safety and welfare, and that it was necessary for him to stay. Mrs. Swinton then shouted to Mr. Armstrong who was passing, and he shouted back to her to get the police. At this point, Mr. Goldie, myself and some of the children went into the Hall. After a out ten minutes the police arrived, and on Mrs. Swinton's instructions removed Mr. Goldie from the Hall. After a discussion with the police, Mr. Goldie left the Centre.

Mrs. Swinton's handling of this situation was absolutely incredible. I know that most of the mothers were horrified by her actions, and that the children were very upset. But this fiasco was not over.

At the Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday 31st May, the boy who was alleged to have broken the window was called in and was examined. A case against the boy could not be sustained and his suspension was lifted. The Warden was also advised to call the police in on matters of vandalism in future and not to expect the Advisory Committee to sit as some sort of court.

After this Mr. Goldie's situation was discussed. He w

He was accused of disrespectful behaviour towards the Warden, also harassment, which I thought was strange as Mr. Goldie was outnumbered by six to one in the office. After some discussion it was decided that Mr. Goldie was to be allowed into the Centre until the end of the session and then suspended in the new season during the months of August, September and October. I and others think this is outrageous and feel like writing to the newspapers regarding this.

If anyone tries to help others and speak out against the Warden they are accused of all sorts of things and deprived of basic rights. Also I would like to say that Mr. Armstrong, the Area Organiser (whom I had some respect for) has come down in my estimation. He completely misled me when I phoned him as to how the Disco Dancing Championships were being arranged. At that time, I also asked about Mr. Goldie, and what was to happen. He said that Mr. Goldie was suspended, but that maybe if I went and asked Mrs. Swinton it would be possible for him to enter for the day of the competition. He also told me that he did not like this kind of situation and avoided it. So you can imagine my amazement when I heard that Mr. Armstrong had initiated the suspension.

Not only that, but at the Advisory Committee meeting I raised this, and Iw was doubly shocked when Mrs. Swinton produced a copy of a letter which Mr. Armstrong was supposed to have sent me. I did not receive any such letter. This was read out at the Advisory, and in it Mr. Armstrong said that he was sorry that Mr. Goldie's suspension could not be lifted. It made it look to the people on the Advisory Committee as if I had phoned him to waive the suspension, which was not the point of the phone call.

I am very distressed about Mr. Armstrong and Mrs. Swinton's obvious dishonest collusion in this affair. I

I therefore ask that you examine this situation, remove Mr. Goldie's suspension, and take steps to ensure that the Warden is not allowed to abuse the power she has been entrusted with.

Yours sincerely,

(Mrs. C. Cooper)

Dear Mr. Miller,

The fundamental problem concerning the members of Castlemilk Community Centre and to a large extent the community in general of Castlemilk who do not use the Community Centre is one, not of their own making but as I hope to make clear, one created by the top people in the Education Department.

To understand this, it is essential to begin, not at the point of the Director appointing Staff to carry out the Administration of the Education Department down through a deputy Director, a Glasgow Director, a deputy Glasgow Director, an area Supervisor and a Community Centre Warden, each in turn who know nothing of what is happening at the GRASS ROOT level or the way the people of Castlemilk want the Community Centre run. Added to this, this group of people care little for the tragic effect of what they are doing to the everyday lives of Castlemilk people. For example because the Warden of the centre has the backing of her area Supervisor SHE can decide that young people will not be allowed into the Centre after 5pm. , unless they are attending a club. Constitutionally she has no authority or right to dominate such matters. The effect on the youth is that they come home from work or School and after having tea, they have no right to gather to discuss or associate with each other in the Community Centre. THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED IN. The result is they wander the Streets, gather in closes, and recently because of the Warden's refusal to listen to their appeals they kicked in and smashed 15 to 20 windows.

The RATEPAYERS have to stump up for this and the Warden screams vandalism, not retaliation for herunreasonableness but vandalism! Who is the vandal??? When approached by the centre members the Area Supervisor is non commital, because he does not understand the constitutional Rights of the members and does not want to fall out with the Warden. In other words he not aquainted with what the constitution guarantees it's members. To investigate another aspect of the way the indifference of the Education Department affects the lives of the centre members, they take no steps to educate or make that the position of Chairman for the Community Centre be filled with a person who is educated in the understanding of how a Chairman should behave. Does he understand the constitution the standing orders? If he does not how can he know when a perfectly legal request must take pride of place over a general opinion of the meeting, and to command the legal request out of order to pacify the loudest voices. Members are being suspended because of this type of injustice. The frustration and anger caused by this lack of knowledge of the constitution is something that creates great gaps in the Ranks of the membership and their attitude to each other. Furthermore although there is a knowledgeable section in the TOP BRASS who understands what is recommended by the Worthington report, the report and other channels of advice, there is very little attempt by them to encourage their staff to bring them into reality.

The present Warden admitted she had never heard of these reports and stated she would not make any enquiries into what they recommended She has deliberately obstructed any attempt by members to carry out these recommendations and has had them reprimanded for trying, the chairman also has never read these reports so how can he know what is the current policy of the Education Dept. There is an important need that such people MUST be compelled to take such thing seriously if they are to be in positions that directly affect the lives of members. The upper brass must be instructed by the top brass that they also must take a deep interestin these reports, put them into practice not just read them and put them away in a drawer in the hope that they will be forgotten. To an observer aware of the situation, it would seem there are people in this bracket who view these policies as a threat to there status, and there authority, rather than helping the members to become more active in the running of their Community centre.

We are confronted by adventurers, firmly entrenched and defended by the Warden and area Supervisors making an active group who care little for the members, they do not know how to take a constructive active part in the centre and as long as they are prominent and talked about in terms of titles they see this as the important thing. They spend a few hours in their glory and think this is what the Community Centre should be used for. As things are at prese. an advisory committee in a similar uninformed state because of the deliberate obstruct ion of the Warden and co., plays little part other than rubber stamp what it is allowe to. It holds Kangeroo courts to intimidate and prevent members from legitimate criticism, presided over by the chairman or vice chairman who refuse to allow the VICTIM to speak. The rules do not apply to them but must be firmly adhered to by the VICTIM. They call this a fair hearing, there must be firm guarantees by the Education Dept. to stop this kind of Injustice and someone made responsible: if it does no! stop they must pay the penalty.

A high ranking official such as Mr. Cranston present at two quarterly meetings of both sides of the advisory to ensure that Educational policies are being carried out, this to cover a period of I8 months to ensure a proper working system, is essential. At present there are a number of clubs who have left the centre because of the harassment and a further three attempting to find alternative accomodation.There are 2 questions being asked by MEMBERS regarding a few young men in the 25year bracket who are applying a threatening attitude to members, these young men are known to be close associates of the Warden and seem to have her approval in this behavior, these complaints have come from old age pensioners,secondly the sequence dancers still have the use of the large h ll 3 nights a week.

The whole roll of the Education Dept. must be changed to meet the needs of the members, the rule of law must be placed and replaced by justice ! As for the Warden as she is not the right horse for this course transported to one where she can terrorise and terrify the clerk, but she's not getting away with it here. The time is fast approaching when I personally will not put up with anymore lies by her or harassment by her friends. I state quite clearly I will reject any attempt to control my freedom by rule of law if unjust, and will defend

my position with legitimate force required, in law this is my entitlement and I will carry it out.

If the rules apply to me they apply to everyone else, if they don't apply to everyone else, then they don't apply to me.

Signed. Ed Graham

EDWARD GRAHAM.

The following short chronological account outlines the resistance to change in the Centre by the representatives of the "older" traditional groups. They fear that change will ultimately break their stranglehold of control in the situation and their use of the Centre as a private club.

Regrettably, their selfish attitudes have had the approval and support of certain Education Dept. officials.

1. At a Special General Meeting on Nov. 28th 1977, certain changes were made to the constitution. It was agreed to finish this task at a later meeting.

2. This meeting was postponed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee and others, and a date was finally fixed only after a written petition signed by 45 members of the Centre was submitted.
3.
3. This petition demanded the finalisation of changes to the constitution. No agenda was displayed in the week prior to the meeting (as required by the existing constitution).

4. On the night of the meeting, Tues. 24th Jan. 1978, we understood why an agenda had not been displayed: the demands of the petition signed by 45 members were not to be discussed!

5. The meeting had been "loaded" by the bringing into the situation of Mr. Kerr and Mr. Swinton from Bath Street, Mr. Absolom, the Warden -- at that time, Miss E. Banks, and Councillors Fitch and Muir. The reason for the presence of the "big guns" soon became known -- the changes achieved at the earlier Special General Meeting were declared null and void!

6. The only "concession"to the possibility of change came in the suggestion from the platform that a Working Party be elected to draw up a draft constitution for consideration at a future AGM or Special General Meeting. Despite objections, this was accepted by the loaded meeting.

6. At an Advisory Committee Meeting on Mon. 30th Jan. 1978, 11 Centre members were picked for this working party. As the people elected represented a fair cross-section of the membership, the Advisory Committee agreed that they were likely to arrive at a draft constitution which would be acceptable to the bulk of the Centre membership.

7. The working party meetings over the months were attended by Mr. Swinton and Miss Banks -- whose attendance had not been requested by the Advisory Committee -- and was indeed questioned by members of the working party. They had invited themselves for a specific purpose -- Miss Banks was there to see that no attempt to undermine her executive authority was included in the draft constitution, and to alert the reactionary or more conservative elements in the working party to the "dangers" of this, and other changes. Mr. Swinton added his scaremongering tactics to the situation.

8. A draft constitution is finally accepted by all members of the working party -- i.e. a copy, with minor alterations, of the constitution at present in use on Ayrshire. This was supplied by Mr. Gray in an attempt to find an acceptable answer to the situation. Mr. Gray was optimistic that the merits of this constitution would soon be apparent to the members of the Centre -- particularly as the Education Dept. officials, Mr. Loggie and Miss Banks, would be "selling it" to the members, as a progressive type of constitution which reflects current thinking in community education.

9. In the weeks after the acceptance of the draft by the working party, the Warden and certain members of the working party are heard repeatedly disowning the draft constitution! Indeed, the mounting wave of hostility which has been whipped up by these actions, against the idea of a "new" constitution, is such that it is only after extreme difficulty that a date is fixed for the discussion of the draft constitution at a Special General Meeting.

10. The Culmination of the Fiasco. The Special General Meeting on April 2nd is again "loaded". This has been achieved by the scaremongering tactics of the reactionaries, and by Mr. King bringing his sequence dancers "en masse" -- (as he had threatened to do at one of the working party meetings -- and had been cautioned against this by Mr. Swinton.)

Again, although them meeting is for a specific purpose -- the discussion of the draft constitution -- the Chairman accepts a motion that the draft constitution shouldbe thrown out without even being discussed, on the grounds that the Strathclyde Regional Council and the trade unions would never accept it! This was an impression that had been deliberately fostered by the warden in the weeks preceding the meeting. This motion had in fact been displayed by her for a week before the meeting. The draft constitution itself was never displayed at any time, and several members at the Special Meeting commented that they had been unable to obtain a copy and were unaware of what the proposals actually were. Unfortunately this did not prevent them from voting by a vast majority not to discuss the constitution. A weak attempt by Mr. Loggie at this veryl last moment to correct some of the distorted beliefs was too little and too late. What carried the day was the repetitiono of the untrue statement that should the Centre adopt a management committee, the Members would themselves be solely responsble for finding all the money to run the Centre -- about £35,000 a year, plus repairs to vandalism etc. This untruth was first planted by Mr. Absolom and Mr. Kerr over ayear ago. The shocking thing is that it has been allowed to persist a and indeed been encouraged in the meantime.

11. Following this meeting, a full minute was handed in as usual by the minute secretary. At the end of the Advisory Committee meeting on Monday 31st May 1979, a single sheet supposed to be the "minutes" of the Special General Meeting was handed out by Mrs. Swinton (Miss Banks). This not only bears no resemblance to the minute handed in by the Minute Secretary, it also gives a totally false impression of what took place at the meeting. The substance of the motion which defeated the draft constitution (see above) does not even appear on it -- and no wonder, since presumably there is at least a possibility of this "minute" being seen by senior officials at Bath Street. This blatant dishonesty is made worse by the fact that the fake "minute" appears under the name of the minute secretary and it is nowhere acknowledged that it was in fact constrcuted (presumably) in the office, without the minute secretary even being informed, let alone consulted.

So the so-called "minute" of the Special Meeting is a distortion of the events, and suggests that the draft constitution has been discussed fully and that the democratic will of the people has yet again prevailed!

What This Means

As the proposed draft constitution has been thrown out without discussion, it would seem that the previous constitution is still in force.

Because of several points, this constitution is unworkable and unenforceable.

It has no legality or validity: no record exists of the minutes of its inaugural meeting.

It is clearly deficient in parts, for example, point 1 states: "The rules printed in the Centre Membership card shall form part of this constitution." Unbelievably, the reactionary members of the Advisory Committee (and some Education Dept. officials) manage to interpret this to mean the rules on the 1968-69 membership card! -- while at the same time managing conveniently to ignore "Rule 1" on this card which states "Membership of the Association shall be open to residents in the Castlemilk Area..." At least half of the members of the Sequence Dance Club reside outwith Castlemilk.

Various other points in this constitution are outmoded, and other parts are simply not observed by the reactionary elements when the occasion demands.

If the constitution is deficient in parts, it is clearly deficient as a whole, and has therefore no validity.

I mention these anomalies to show the obvious need for a new constitution.

The reactionary elements in the Centre, however, have refused to consider seriously change of any sort.

I, and others, therefore refuse to be bound by this invalid "constitution", and various "rules and regulations" which do not have a documented existence.

Some General Points

The present Advisory Committee has on occasion allowed itself to be used as some sort of kangaroo court. Indeed some individuals on the committee are only too willing to be involved in this type of activity, as they see it to be yet another way in which they can exercise their power of control against any other elements in the Centre situation.

Although it can be argued that disciplinary procedures should legitimately be a concern of any Advisory or Management committee, it is interesting to observe that discipline seems to be the main area of concern to the present Advisory Committee.

To be able to involve itself in questions of disciplinary procedures and actions, the structure and composition of the committee would have to be fair and representative. The present Advisory Committee is neither.

According to the "constitution", which the reactionaries have fought so bitterly to retain, the Advisory Committee should comprise of,

a) Representatives of groups which have been approved by the Advisory Committee

b) Representatives of affiliated organisations which have been approved by the Advisory Committee.

Some "proof" that the group is a bona fide organisation, such as its constitution, seems also to be required.

This presents a real (but not insurmountable) difficulty for many of the "traditional" groups represented on the committee, as many of them have never fulfilled these basic constitutional requirements. No record or minutes of their "approval" by the Advisory Committee, or copies of their constitutions seem to exist! They are <u>not</u> therefore entitled to vote. Despite this, some clubs such as the Sequence Dancing have not only <u>one</u> but <u>three</u> votes! They claim because they have three separate nights they are entitled to this.

The reason of course for this bending of the rules to enable them to have more votes, is that these people and the Warden use the Advisory Committee as apolitical assassination bureau against anyone challenging the status quo.

In an attempt to establish what groups are entitled to vote at Advisory Committee meetings, at the meeting on Mon. 27th Feb. I requested a list of bona fide groups and clubs who had met the constitutional requirements. Mrs. Swinton refused this on the grounds that "she did not think it appropriate for a list as such to be available to members of the Centre on request." It was accepted however that a list would be posted by the Warden on the Centre notice board.

I have brought this question up repeatedly at Advisory Committee meetings on Mon. 20th Mar. '78, Mon. 24th April '78, Mon. 12th June '78, and most recently on Thurs. 31st May 1979. Despite this, the Warden has resisted posting this list on the grounds of being "too busy". The realr reason of course is that she recognises that few of the clubs meet the constitutional requirements necessary to qualify for a vote, and if this is unearthed it would mean a change in the balance of power at Advisory Committee meetings.

Not only is she prepared to be devious to this extent, but she has used her delaying tactics to buy time for these groups, in order to allow them (belatedly) to meet the constitutional requirements.

At the last Advisory Committee meeting on Thurs. 31st May, the importance of the question of the right to vote was illustrated when a member, Mr. Philip Goldie, was suspended from membership of the Centre for a further three months. After this vote, a lady admitted that her club had never fulfilled the constitutional requirements which would legitimately have allowed her representation and voting rights at the Advisory Committee! An employee of the Centre, Mr. McGregor (relief steward) was also voting as a representative of a Club. This is surely an unethical practice, and these facts alone surely invalidate the "vote" taken.

John Cooper

Department of Education
25 Bothwell Street
Glasgow G2 6NR

Director of Education
Edward Miller MA(Hons) MEd(Hons)

Strathclyde Regional Council

Tel 041-204 2900 Ext 2841

Mr John Cooper
34 Raithburn Avenue
Castlemilk
GLASGOW G45

Our ref EM/PH

Your ref

If phoning or calling ask for

Date 3 July 1979

Dear Mr Cooper

Thank you for your letter of 20 June 1979 to which you were good enough to attach the various reports which I requested.

As I promised I shall investigate the matter fully and thereafter arrange to meet with the representatives you suggest in accordance with our agreement.

There will be a delay of a few weeks, however, partly because of the pressure of work at present, partly because of the need to check all the facts carefully and partly because we are now into the time of year when annual leave is taken by most of my colleagues. I do hope that we can resolve the situation at an early date and in a manner which is acceptable to as many people as possible.

We do not have a room in Bothwell Street large enough for the number you have in mind, and I shall therefore arrange to find a suitable committee room in Melrose House or Bath Street.

Sincerely

Edward Miller.

34 Raithburn Ave.
Castlemilk
Glasgow G45.

25 ~~24~~. 10. 79.

Dear Mr Miller,

On Monday last (22Oct.) I + my wife were not allowed to attend the A.G.M. of the Community Centre on grounds that "we did not have current membership cards + were therefore not members of the Centre." We explained that on two occassions since the Centre re-opened we had tried to purchase cards from Mrs Swinton only to be told that they were not ~~yet~~ available. At other times we called, it was Mrs. Swinton who was not availible. Despite ~~this~~ explanation, the Chairman, urged by the prejudice of many of the people at the meeting, asked us to leave. My wife, sickened + dismayed at the behaviour of the people who in the past had prayed about "community spirit, goodwill, + democracy," could take no more + did leave the hall. I refused to leave, + the Chairman called the police to remove me. When the police arrived, they seemed sympathetic to my situation, but explained they could not go into the rights or wrongs of the matter but could only carry out the Chairmans desire that I leave the meeting.

I am sure you will recognise ~~from the above~~, Mr Miller, ~~that~~ THAT THE ISSUE WAS NOT ONE OF SITUATION. I had nothing to do with membership cards or the technicality of membership of the Centre. (For example, if you will glance at the minutes of last years A.G.M. you may be suprised to note that no one present had membership cards! - as they had not been availible at the time! Technically of course this means that none present

were members, but the A.G.M. went on. Such technicalities as ~~holding~~ not possession of a membership card only matters to these practical people when the fact can be used against someone else.

What in fact was happening at the meeting of course, was yet another expression of hostility & selfishness from the "old guard" in their attempt to maintain the status quo by any means however undemocratic & extreme, - other examples of which we have already brought to your attention.

What makes this particular action inexcusable, is the fact that the Community Education Dept. officials present, Mr Armstrong & Mr Loggie condoned the action of the Chairman in calling them the police. The Community Education Dept. through their officials, have a responsibility to see that everyone has access to participation in the Centre & its resources. Mr Armstrong & Mr Loggie allowed the executive power to be taken from them by this minority in the Centre & used for their own unscrupulous ends. My criticism does not extend to the Assistant Warden as I understand he was appalled at the hostility shown by the mob & was reluctant to allow the Chairman to call the police. I had suggested when we were first refused entry to the hall, that the simplist way to resolve the argument of "no cards" was to allow the Warden to go to the office & issue us with the cards we had attempted on previous occasions to obtain. But rather than adopt this solution, they were prepared to waste half an hour of the

meeting, & eventually the office had to be opened anyway to allow the Chairman use of the 'phone.

At the same meeting, Mr Miller, a list of proposals was put forward which clearly restricts participation in & access to the centre of a large majority of people in Castlemilk generally, & which reinforce the position of this "élite".* It seems appropriate therefore, to request the meeting you had already agreed to discuss exactly this type of abuse. I would ask that this take place at the earliest opportunity.

Yours Faithfully,
John Cooper.

For Exemp:

In other words, the ~~same~~ people who would not even hear ~~the reading of~~ allow the recent proposed const. which would have meant "power sharing" between the diff. groups ~~in the community~~ & between the Educ. Dept. ~~the group who decided to retain the archaic structure of exec power by the officials, are~~ wish allowed to assume exec. power of decision over right matters of entry to meetings & TO THE CENTRE GENERALLY & LIMITS them. - as in the situation I have described above.

Department of Education
25 Bothwell Street
Glasgow G2 6NR

Director of Education
Edward Miller MA(Hons) MEd(Hons)

Strathclyde Regional Council

Tel 041-204 2900 Ext 2847

Mr J Cooper
34 Raithburn Avenue
Castlemilk
GLASGOW G45

Our ref JPC/MC

Your ref

If phoning or calling ask for

Date 13 November 1979

Dear Mr Cooper

I refer to your letter of 29 October 1979 in which you refer to the conduct of the annual general meeting of the Castlemilk Community Centre on Monday 22 October 1979. I was sorry to learn that you had been involved in an incident at the centre on that evening.

From enquiries I have made, I understand that the decision to admit to the AGM on 22 October 1979 only holders of current membership cards was taken by the Centre Advisory Committee and that their decision was displayed in the centre for at least four weeks prior to the meeting. I am sorry that neither you nor your wife were able to obtain membership cards during that period, and as a result were excluded from the annual general meeting. It was unfortunate that you were unable to get to the centre on the evening concerned until after the meeting had started since I feel sure that had you arrived before the meeting started you would have been able to obtain membership cards even at that time.

I understand also that the decision to exclude you and your wife was the result of a motion from the floor and not from the chair. The officers of the education department who were in attendance at the meeting offered guidance to the chairman but they did not move to over-ride the decision of the members. Their action was consonant with the policy of the education committee to allow the community to manage their own resource. For the same reason I would not wish to impose upon members a constitution which was unacceptable to the bulk of the membership. Should the guidelines adopted by the members for the running of the centre prove to be unsatisfactory and fail to meet their needs and aspirations, I have no doubt that they will amend these guidelines as they see fit.

I have taken a close interest in the Castlemilk Community Centre and shall continue to do so. I shall offer through my divisional officers all the help and advice possible to enable the people in a community to manage the resource which the regional council has made available to them but I would not wish to intervene as long as the resource was being managed within the policy of the council.

I/

I feel that you have much to contribute to the community both in ideas and in service. The only way to implement one's ideas in a democratic society, however, is to win the support of others, and this can be achieved, sometimes slowly perhaps, when the worth of these ideas become generally recognised. I would hope that you would continue to pursue your aims but I would ask you to work within the democratic framework which has been established.

I would not wish to convene a meeting at this time when the members of the community centre have so recently agreed on their advisory committee for the new session and discussed guidelines for the management of the centre. I would want to allow the advisory committee and the new community education area team some time to develop the plans they have to meet as fully as our resources permit the needs of Castlemilk. I have asked Mr Wallace, the divisional officer in charge in Glasgow, to monitor the situation closely and you should refer any difficulty to him through the area organiser, Mr Armstrong.

Sincerely

Edward Miller.